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## Court rejects bid to stop settler land grab

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The Israeli supreme court turned down on Tuesday a claim by Palestinians to a piece of land south of Bethlehem, opening the way for its use in the expansion of a Jewish settlement. Palestinians' lawyer Lynda Brayer said the court asked her to retract the case due to lack of evidence in support of the Palestinians' claim to the land, an area of 50 hectares outside the West Bank village of Artas. "They are asking for proof of ownership in a system in which it is impossible for Palestinians to prove ownership," Ms. Brayer, an Israeli, told AFP. Israel declared the area, known as "Olive Hill," to be unused "state land" in 1982 and the legal dispute has been ongoing since. The nearby settlement of Efrat intends to use the land to build 400 new houses.

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation  
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Volume 21 Number 6407

AMMAN WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1996, SHAABAN 7, 1417

Price: Jordan 150 Fils

## Christmas Day declared holiday

AMMAN (Petra) — All schools, universities and community colleges will be closed on Wednesday, Dec. 25 in observance of Christmas, according to a decision taken by Prime Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabariti on Tuesday. Last year the government announced New Year's Eve as a public holiday observed by all ministries, government departments and public institutions.

## Kabariti meets U.S. officials

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti Tuesday received at his office President of the Middle East Centre for Peace and Economic Cooperation Senator Wyne Owens and President of the Middle East Institute for Peace and Development Steve Kohen and reviewed with them the latest developments in the peace process. Mr. Kabariti stressed that the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations should overcome all obstacles and move forward to the final status talks.

## Decree approves transport accord

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree was issued on Tuesday endorsing a Cabinet decision approving a bilateral air transport agreement signed by the governments of Jordan and the United States.

## Hariri: Lebanon aid 'sign of confidence'

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri on Monday hailed a \$3 billion aid package for Lebanon as a vote of confidence in his country but said it was time to lift the U.S. travel ban as well. "It was a big success," Mr. Hariri said of the "Friends of Lebanon" conference attended here by 29 countries, the European Union and seven international financial organizations (see page 8). "We are satisfied with every contribution," he said, adding that the aid package was a "sign of confidence" in Lebanon. But the prime minister said he regretted President Bill Clinton's remarks Monday that the ban on Americans travelling in Lebanon should remain in effect. "We would have loved to see this travel ban lifted," Mr. Hariri told reporters.

## 17 die in Russian military plane crash

MOSCOW (R) — Seventeen people, including the commander of the Leningrad military district, were killed when a military plane crashed while taking off from an airport in northwestern Russia on Tuesday, an air force spokesman said. The spokesman said seven crew members and 10 passengers, including Colonel-General Sergei Seleznev and his wife, were aboard the Antonov-12 plane when it crashed at an airfield near the city of Pskov at around 2 p.m. (1100 GMT). "Most of the people on board were military personnel," the spokesman said. He said the plane was a cargo aircraft with a capacity of 14 tonnes. The accident was the latest in a long series involving former Soviet aircraft. The surge in accidents is generally attributed to cash shortages which lower already poor maintenance standards and places extra pressure on air crew.

# Israel 'deplores' Clinton criticism of settlements

## U.S. president says Hebron accord is close, urges quick move to other issues

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel deplores U.S. President Bill Clinton's criticism of its settlement policy in the West Bank and Gaza but does not expect a crisis in relations, a senior official said Tuesday. "We deplore Clinton's minor semantic escalation but in no way do we expect a crisis or showdown with the U.S. administration," David Bar Ilan, adviser to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, told AFP. "Anything that preempts the outcome of something that both parties have agreed should be part of the final negotiations, cannot be helpful in making peace," Mr. Clinton said Monday following a meeting with European Union leaders. Asked whether he believed that the Jewish settlements presented an

obstacle to the Middle East peace process, Mr. Clinton responded: "Absolutely." The Israeli government on Friday declared the West Bank settlements "national priority" zones which makes them eligible for tax breaks and subsidies, a move denounced as "dangerous" by the Palestinians. But Mr. Clinton said that U.S. policy remains fundamentally the same and that relations with Israel were still friendly. The president added that every U.S. government has advocated Israel's return to its boundaries before the June 1967 Arab-Israeli war, with minor modifications. The United States in recent days has stepped up its criticism of Israel's support for the settlements and it was the first time Mr. Clinton has made so direct an attack.

But he noted that Israel's move comes just as a key agreement on the transfer of Hebron to the Palestinian National Authority was about to be reached. "The situation is full of tension and full of frustration," Mr. Clinton said. "They've had an agreement within grasp." During the 1970s, the White House openly decried the settlements as "illegal," but subsequent administrations have softened that charge. Friday, however, the state department fired the first volley in the new, tougher stand by calling the latest developments "troubling." And Monday, officials pressed for a meeting between Mr. Netanyahu and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, saying that

(Continued on page 7)

# Arafat says he is willing to meet Netanyahu to save peace process

VIENNA (AFP) — Palestinian President Yasser Arafat said Tuesday he was ready to meet with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu anytime, anywhere to try to rescue the Middle East peace process from collapse. Mr. Arafat, in Vienna at the start of a European tour, said there was "very serious" tension between Palestinians and Israelis and warned the peace process "is in real trouble." Asked whether he was willing to meet the Israeli premier, Mr. Arafat said "why not?" adding that he was willing to do so "anyplace, anytime." He said Mr. Netanyahu on Sunday had sent an aide to meet with him in Gaza and that at these talks "we agreed to continue the peace process" which has bogged down partly over Israel's refusal to implement the planned troop redeployment in the flash-point West Bank town of Hebron. The Palestinians have

also been angered by the lifting of restrictions on expanding settlements and Mr. Netanyahu's agreement to provide new financial incentives to Jewish settlements in the occupied territories. Mr. Arafat slammed the move as a "timebomb" and said it was "a very serious and dangerous decision." He also warned the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) could not be held responsible for the reaction of Palestinians angered by the loss of their lands. "They (the Israelis) are confiscating the land of farmers ... They'll do all they can to protect their land. We cannot give assurances what will be their reaction."

"I should be overcome to the next couple of days," he added. Mr. Netanyahu had also reassured Mr. Vranitzky that he "is ready to continue the peace process beyond the settlement of the Hebron question," the chancellor said. The Israelis "are insisting to change main issues in the peace agreement ... they're putting new conditions," Mr. Arafat complained, adding that despite U.S. and Egyptian efforts to put pressure on Mr. Netanyahu "nothing has been achieved. We're asking only that what has been signed, be implemented." The negotiations on Hebron, launched by Washington after the worst Israeli-Palestinian violence for 30 years in September, have not been convened for two weeks. Mr. Arafat also slammed Israel's continued closure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip which he said was costing the Palestinians "\$7 or \$9 million per day."

# Uday Hussein appears on Iraqi television, says he is fine, recovering from wounds

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Uday Hussein, eldest son of Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein who survived an assassination attempt last week, appeared on Iraqi television on Tuesday and said he was recovering from his wounds. "I'm fine," he told Al Shabab Television, which he owns. "I'm recovering." It was his first public appearance since last Thursday's attack. The television footage apparently was made Tuesday during a visit to Uday Hussein's hospital room by a Qatari envoy, who was identified as a son of Qatari's emir, Sheikh Hamad Ben Khalifa Al Thani. His brother, Qusai, also was there. The film, also shown on Jordan Television, showed Uday Hussein in what appeared to be a hospital room. A sheet covered him from his upper chest to his feet. There was no indication of injury to his face or neck — places that Iraqi opposi-

tion groups said he had been hit by the attackers. "Thanks to God Iraq is safe and sound," Uday told the Qatari visitor. Uday described Thursday's attack in a wealthy area of Baghdad as "a stab in the back. It is alien to Arab traditions. I feel as a military general would feel on the battlefield," he added during a visit from a representative of the official Iraqi News Agency, adding that he was "ready to sacrifice myself again for Iraq." "My brother and I are ready to die as martyrs for Iraq," Uday added. He thanked the Iraqi people for the sympathy they had shown since the "cowardly" attack on Thursday and "asked God to save Iraq and Saddam."

Two French doctors arrived in the Iraqi capital on Sunday after Uday underwent "several operations" by Iraqi doctors who pulled out bullets from his chest, abdomen, shoulder and head, a diplomat said. Uday was not in a "critical" condition and was "lucid" despite the wounds he received when at least two masked men fired machine-guns and tossed grenades at his car, diplomats said, citing an official who visited him. The two doctors, identified as Patrick Philippe and Dominique Thana, had travelled to Baghdad via Amman by car because of the U.N. sanctions which ban flights to Iraq. There was speculation that calling in the foreign doctors indicated his condition was more serious than previously thought. An official Iraqi report issued after Thursday's

(Continued on page 7)



His Majesty King Hussein on Tuesday receives an Austrian delegation which brought him the 'Flame of Peace' that originated in Bethlehem (Petra photo)

# King reiterates total commitment to peace and keen efforts to remove all hurdles in Arab-Israeli negotiations

## Austrian team brings 'Flame of Peace' to Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein on Tuesday reaffirmed Jordan's total commitment to peace and stressed that the Kingdom would do all it could to remove the obstacles hindering the peace process. The King was addressing an Austrian delegation, which brought him the "Flame of Peace" that originated in Bethlehem and was taken to Austria before being brought to Amman by the delegation. The delegation included four children from the Austrian SOS village. The King told the delegation: "I would like to thank you so much for this very moving experience and kind gesture, a proof of commitment of us all to the cause of peace within this region and in the world. This region ... was the birth place of the three great monotheistic religions and a message of peace to mankind. I can assure you of my total commitment to do everything I could to keep this torch burning and to see that everything is done, I hope that all concerned and all involved in this area remove all the

walls and the barriers that have for too long separated us and caused us to be alien to one another. I believe that the removal of these barriers will help us achieve our hopes and aspirations to build secure future that is worthy of us all." The King said Austria had a very special place in his heart adding that he was proud of and grateful for the help offered by Austria to Jordan. The King said Austria and Jordan had many things in common. He said that Jordanian-Austrian relations were genuine and strong. "I hope you will carry a message from us to the Austrian people, our friendship and respect," he said. He expressed hope that he would be able to pay a visit to Austria as soon as possible to express Jordan's gratitude to the Austrian people and leadership. King Hussein also received at the Royal Court Behn Datu Haji Abdul Aziz, the minister of higher education in Brunei, who conveyed to the King a message from Brunei Sultan Hassan Bolkiah inviting King Hussein to visit Brunei.

During the meeting the two sides reviewed bilateral relations focusing mainly on higher education. The meeting was attended by Royal Court Chief Awn Khasawneh, Minister of Higher Education Abdullah Ensour and the Brunei ambassador to Jordan. The King conferred on the visiting minister the Jordanian Al Kawkab Medal of the First Order. The King also received U.S. senators Joseph Lieberman (Democrat-Connecticut) and Ron Wyden (Democrat-Oregon) who reviewed with the King the developments in the peace process. King Hussein reaffirmed the need for intensified efforts to bring peace to the region. The two U.S. senators arrived in Amman on Tuesday, on a one-day visit as part of a tour in the region. Mr. Lieberman was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1989 and is on the Armed Services Committee, the Environment and Public Works Committee, the Governmental Affairs Committee and the Small Business Committee. Mr. Wyden was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1996.

# Political activists seek means to prepare for 'new world order'

By Sa'eda Kilani  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Representatives of 40 Arab parties on Tuesday focused discussion here on how to prepare the Arab World to deal with the "new world order" and facing the challenges of the next century. Speakers on Tuesday, the second day of a three-day conference, generally blamed the lack of democracy, Israeli policies and imperialist policies for the woes of the Arabs over the past several decades. Informally, though, most Arab politicians lashed out at the policies of various Arab "dictatorial" regimes as the main reason for "chaos and backwardness in the Arab World." The politicians listed the greatest ills facing the Arabs today as the lack of democracy, respect for human rights and freedom of expression, brain drain, hampered economic growth and social injustice. "Through the establishment of a Middle Eastern market and by applying the globalisation theory, Israel will have succeeded in

achieving its kind of peace that is aimed at imposing its hegemony on all Arab countries," said Saleh Abu Wazzan from the Syrian Communist Party. "Arabs should set up effective coalitions, pursue self-independent policies and liberate their economies from imperialist domination," he said. But in their short comments made at the conference and interviews with the Jordan Times, political party members and leaders conceded that part of the blame also lies with authoritarian regimes which deprived people from their right to a dignified life and to enjoy democracy and freedom of expression. They recurrently pointed to brain drain, oppression and lack of public freedoms as decisive factors that hamper economic growth and prosperity. Daoud Talhami from the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine complained about "certain practices" that are still dominant in the Arab World threatening its progress and development and called on

parties, individuals and governments to increase their "struggle for democracy." Citing an example, Mr. Talhami pointed to the anti-normalisation conference that was held in Yemen earlier this month saying that his organisation as well as the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine have been excluded from the participants' list. He said they sent a letter to the conference's organisers protesting the move. But Mr. Talhami himself refrained from making any comment about the right of Muslim Brotherhood member who was banned from entering Yemen to attend the same conference nor about another Lebanese journalist who was denied entry to Jordan (see page 12). Other participants interviewed by the Jordan Times would not express their views either about the rights of illegal Arab parties to attend the conference which only groups licensed parties from the Arab World excluding the Gulf states.

(Continued on page 7)

# First list of 107 prisoners for release is ready

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Council Of Ministers on Tuesday approved a list containing the names of 107 prisoners who qualify for release under an amnesty granted by His Majesty King Hussein. Information Minister Marwan Muasher said.

The list will be presented to the King for endorsement, the minister told reporters after a regular session of the Council of Ministers.

According to official sources and reports in the local press, cases of up to 1,200 prisoners were being considered for possible release under the amnesty, which was announced on the occasion of the King's birthday.

In comments to the press, Dr. Muasher rejected early this week all reports that lists of prisoners who qualify for release were finalised. He said Saturday a technical committee entrusted with examining the cases was continuing its work and would submit its recommendations to the full Council of Ministers, which, in turn, would study and forward them to the King. It was not immediately clear when the actual release would start.

Meanwhile, a local columnist asserted that the entire issue was delayed by jockeying within the government.

Writing in the Al Dustour daily, columnist Mohammad Subeithi said that there were "divergent views within the Cabinet." The writer said "conflicting statements" made by officials on the criteria that qualify prisoners for the amnesty came because "some parties in the Cabinet" were seeking to ensure the release of prisoners from their constituencies. That appeared to be an implicit reference to electioneering ahead of parliamentary polls later this year.

Mr. Subeithi argued that any official at the Ministry of Justice could sort out names of the first batch of prisoners to be released in cooperation with any criminal investigation department officer in a week's time. As such, he asserted, there should not be any delay in processing the lists of prisoners for release.

"We must tell the prime minister in all honesty that people attribute the delay in implementing the royal amnesty to the attempts by some parties in the cabinet to ensure release of prisoners from their constituencies," Mr. Subeithi wrote.

In his comments to the press after Saturday's Cabinet session, Dr. Muasher said the council also reviewed regulations of non-Jordanian licences and offices for renting cars.

He confirmed that Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy visit Jordan on Thursday upon an invitation from Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti.

Dr. Muasher said that the visit would be within the context of Jordan's efforts to bring about peace in the region and to emphasise to Israeli officials the need for an Israeli redeployment in Hebron as well as the grave danger the expansion of settlements pose to the peace process.



## Hamas says it believes in democracy, calls on Arab politicians to work together

By Christina Schlegel  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Palestinian Hamas movement asserted Tuesday that it believes in democracy (freedom of opinion) and pluralism, and that Islamist-oriented parties are not against other political organisations.

Abraham Ghosheh, the Amman-based spokesperson of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas), also said the movement believes that it is of vital importance that democracy in the Arab states is not forced on the people by the regimes but should be a natural change in political systems and outlook.

Mr. Ghosheh, speaking to the Jordan Times from the fringes of a conference of Arab political parties which opened in Amman on Monday, stressed that it does not mean whether the ruling party is Islamist or nationalist as long as it is elected by the people through free and fair elections.

Hamas favours political pluralism and will accept the results of any free and fair elections, he added.

Mr. Ghosheh, who is one of the Hamas delegates to the Amman conference, welcomed the convening of the meeting, the first of its kind in the Arab World, and called on Arab leaders to encourage such gatherings.

"We request all Arab leaders to open the doors and let people participate in such meetings for free and open discussions to support the solidarity process in the Arab World," he said.

Achieving Arab solidarity

and finding common ground among the various political parties in the Arab World towards achieving common objectives are two major tasks of the conference, he said.

However, Mr. Ghosheh criticised some Arab governments, which, he said, were hindering the process of interaction among Arab political parties.

He cited as an example the Egyptian government's ban against a Muslim Brotherhood delegation travelling to Sanaa last week to attend a meeting of groups opposed to normalisation of Arab relations with Israel.

Such actions, he said, are among the obstacles which need to be overcome in order to achieve Arab solidarity and strengthen the Arab states' position within the world order.

Mr. Ghosheh said the meeting in the Yemeni capital showed that a majority of Arabs support the Palestinian people's rights to establish an independent state and reject any solution which gives the Israelis any right over Palestinian territories.

The participants also agreed that the Arab-Israeli conflict was not simply a dispute over territorial borders and neighbouring Arab countries but a problem that affects the entire Arab World, he added.

Coming as it does one week after the Sanaa gathering, the Amman conference "is of great importance for all parties to reach a collective stand, despite their different attitudes and

experiences," Mr. Ghosheh stressed.

"The problem to unify the Arab countries is not a problem of the people but between the regimes which compete with each other, being under the influence of the United States and others," Mr. Ghosheh contended.

Noting that all Arab countries have a common language, a common religion and "a common enemy — Zionism," Mr. Ghosheh called on the Arab World to find a collective position vis-a-vis common challenges.

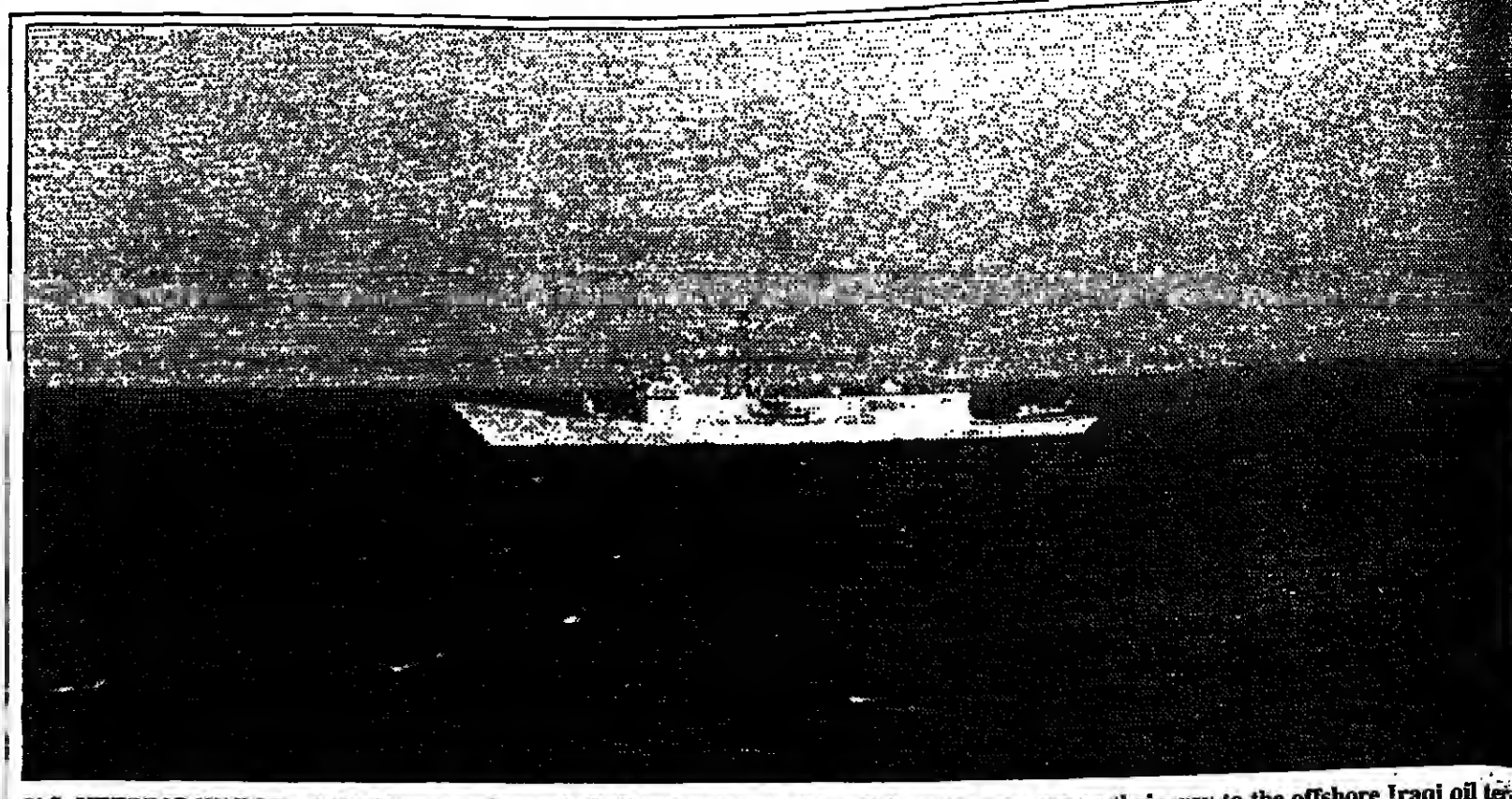
"If we can reach an economic and political common ground, then we will be more influential and thus powerful in the world, but if we keep on being divided (in our opinions), we will have a 'weak stand,' he said. The Amman conference, he added, "is a step into the right direction."

At the conference on Tuesday, participants broke up into working committees to discuss on political, economic and social issues in the Arab World.

The result of the deliberations of the committees will be incorporated into a final communiqué expected to be released on Thursday.

Another committee, consisting of one member each from each participating country, will be formed on Thursday to institutionalise the convening of similar conferences.

Tipped to head the committee is Suleiman Arar, head of Jordan's Al-Mustaqbal party which organised the Amman conference.



U.S. KEEPING WATCH: A U.S. Navy vessel patrols Gulf waters as members of the press corp are on their way to the offshore Iraqi oil terminal of Al Bakr on Monday. Two huge tankers filled with Iraqi crude were about to move through the Gulf in Baghdad's first oil exports through the strategic waterway in six years, Gulf shipping sources said on Tuesday (Reuters photo)

## Heavy militia fighting continues in Mogadishu

MOGADISHU (Agencies) — At least six people were killed and 17 others wounded when three rounds of mortar shells landed Tuesday in south Mogadishu, controlled by warlord Hussein Mohamud Aided.

The deaths brought to more than 100 the number of people killed in four days of heavy fighting between militias of Somali clan warlords, according to hospital and militia sources.

One of the mortars, apparently fired by militia supporters of Aided's arch-rival in the United Somali Congress/Somali National Alliance (USC/SNA) Osman Hassan Ali "Ato," landed near a private hospital called Al Imra.

The other two landed near the black sea area of south Mogadishu and at Bakarah, eyewitnesses said.

Two other rounds also landed in a residential area, but did not cause any casualties. Many of the bodies were mutilated by shrapnel, and the market had pools of blood. At least 150 wounded passersby were taken to nearby hospitals.

The shelling came after forces loyal to Aided with dozens of battle wagons — trucks mounted with heavy weapons — attacked supporters of a rival faction led by Ali Mahdi Mohammed in two neighbourhoods, known as Medina and Bosnia, residents said.

Shells that hit the Bakarah market apparently came in retaliation for Mr. Aided's attack.

Both sides suffered casualties. Exact figures were not available, but Medina residents contacted by phone spoke of at least 23 bodies

lying on the main market street.

Hospital sources at Ali Hassan hospital in south Mogadishu said the fighting had left at least 40 people dead, including the 23 from Medina.

Among the dead were seven brothers — aged between six months and 14 — who died when a mortar round landed on their house in Medina. Hospital workers were treating both parents who survived.

Mr. Aided's supporters, who control a part of south Mogadishu, have laid siege to Medina, but all previous attempts to dislodge members of Ali Mahdi's Aghal subclan from the southern district have failed.

Medina lies on the so-called green line dividing the two halves of the war-torn Mogadishu, since the country — and the capital — disintegrated into a freedom of warring clans in 1991.

Mr. Aided's forces were said to have made a considerable advance in Medina before a faction allied with Mr. Ali Mahdi joined in and pushed them back.

Somalia has had no functioning central government since 1991.

The civil war followed the ouster of late dictator Mohammad Siad Barre.

The latest round of fighting erupted between the two warlords four days ago.

Heavy fighting was also said to be continuing between Ato and Aided forces, in other parts of the city, while a heavy exchange of fire was also taking place at Mogadishu airport between Mr. Aided's militia and those of Mr. Ali Mahdi.

## Shin Bet chief considered quitting in conflict with Netanyahu — reports

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The head of Israel's secret service considered resigning due to conflicts with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, but decided against the move fearing shock waves within the security establishment, Israeli press reports said Tuesday.

Newspapers said Ami Ayalon, chief of the Shin Bet internal security service, was unhappy over Mr. Netanyahu's failure to consult security officials over crucial policy decisions.

Mr. Netanyahu met Mr. Ayalon Monday to discuss the problem, the newspapers reported. A spokesman from the prime minister's office would only say he was unaware of any resignation threats by Mr. Ayalon, who took over the Shin Bet earlier this year after the organisation's previous chief stepped down over the assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

Mr. Ayalon reportedly became unhappy over Mr. Netanyahu's decision in September to open a new entrance into an archaeological tunnel near Islamic holy sites in Jerusalem that sparked four days of bloody clashes between Palestinians and Israeli

soldiers which left 86 people dead. The security chief also strongly opposed the prime minister's move to strengthen Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip last week following a Palestinian attack on a settler family.

Relations between the two reached a crisis after the prime minister said on national television the security establishment had approved opening the tunnel, contradicting earlier statements by Mr. Ayalon.

The security chief had recommended opening the site simultaneously with an Israeli troop redeployment within the West Bank city of Hebron.

"I recommended opening the tunnel co-ordinated with speeding up the political negotiations on the issue of Hebron," Mr. Ayalon said in a statement drafted with Mr. Netanyahu's participation Monday. "I did not participate in the sessions in which the opening's precise timing was decided."

Labour member of parliament Haim Ramon called for an investigation into Mr. Netanyahu's perceived attempt to lay the blame for the tunnel violence on the security establishment.

## Poll: Israeli army is hard to sell

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli pollsters recommended Tuesday that the army appoint a "chief marketing officer" to sell the nation's youth on military service after more than one-fifth of adolescents questioned in a survey said they would not enlist voluntarily.

"Beyond the political problem of a divided nation, there are problems with the product itself," said Moody Kidon, director of the Gitan marketing firm which conducted the survey.

In the poll of 300 Israeli youths between the ages of 16 to 18, 22 per cent said they would not serve in the army in the absence of mandatory conscription.

Seventy-one per cent said their parents' generation had higher motivation to serve in the army, while 31 per cent claimed Israel's current political situation did not justify

the mandatory draft.

Concerning personal motivation, 45 per cent said self-fulfilment was a more important goal than national values and 40 per cent said military service delayed their personal development.

Mr. Kidon cited the Israeli army's lack of advertising and the highly publicised incidents of soldiers killed during training accidents as partly responsible for the negative response from adolescents.

Military officers and experts have also pointed to the Middle East peace process and ambivalence about the headline policies of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu as further reasons for falling motivation to serve in the army.

Responding to the poll results, Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai called on

the army to use every possible means to boost flagging morale among future draftees.

"I don't want to turn the Israeli defence forces into a market product," Mr. Mordechai told the Maariv newspaper, "but to present our quality product to the public we must use every modern means at our disposal."

Mr. Mordechai has repeatedly said motivation to defend the Jewish state has declined in recent years. Mr. Kidon said as many as seven out of 10 Israeli reservists routinely failed to show up for duty in the past year.

A group of Israeli reserve officers warned Mr. Netanyahu in a letter in October they would not be willing to fight in a war incited by the statesman's allegedly irresponsible policies towards the state's Arab neighbours.

## New Sudan law gives press more freedoms

KHARTOUM (AP) — A new press law that gives more freedoms to journalists has been ratified by the Sudanese parliament.

The law approved Sunday focuses on the rights of journalists, rather than their obligations. It says they have the right not to reveal their sources, and should not be detained or arrested without the Sudanese Journalists Union being notified first.

"The journalist shall not be exposed to any illegal pressure with the aim of influencing his impartiality or his commitment to the duties of his profession," the new law says.

However, previous laws, including the most recent passed in 1993, guaranteed press freedom but were widely ignored. The arrest of journalists and publication bans have been common.

The country, Africa's largest and one of its poorest, has been an Islamic state since a 1989 coup brought Lieutenant-General Omar Al Bashir to power. Political parties were banned.

The new law broadens prohibitions on reporting on security issues. In addition to

being forbidden to publish stories related to the regular army and national security, as under the 1993 law, journalists now also may not publish reports on the police and fire brigades.

However, while the 1993 law forbade journalists from "debasing or demoralising the regular forces," no such instructions are in the new law.

The new bill also relaxes rules governing foreign publications, saying only that persons wishing to bring them into the country must get permission from the National Council for Press and Publication.

Previously, the law stipulated that the council could ban the importing or circulation of any foreign publication that it viewed as violating "public decency," disrespectful to religion or insulting to the head of a friendly state.

The council can punish newspapers or publishing houses found to be in violation of the press law with warnings, a two-month ban on publishing, a shutdown or cancellation of licenses.

### JORDAN TELEVISION

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#### PROGRAMME TWO

- 14:05 ..... The Muppet Show
- 14:30 ..... Circus
- 15:00 ..... Jeux — Pyramide
- 15:30 ..... Serie — Les Compagnons de L'Ad-venture
- 16:00 Doc. — Earth Revealed
- 16:30 ..... Blizzard Island
- 17:00 ..... News Flash
- 17:02 ..... The Adventures and Kelly
- 18:00 ..... Ushuaia
- 19:00 ..... Le Journal
- 19:15 ..... Magazine — Sports
- El Musique
- 19:30 ..... News Headlines
- 19:35 ..... Bakersfield P.D.
- 20:00 ..... Challenges
- 21:10 ..... NBA Basketball
- 22:00 ..... News in English
- 22:25 ..... Bugs
- 23:15 ..... Hart to Hart
- 23:59 Comedy — Who's The Boss?

#### PRAYER TIMES

- 05:02 ..... Fajr
- 06:25 ..... (Sunrise) Duha
- 11:32 ..... Dhuhr
- 14:26 ..... 'Asr
- 16:39 ..... Maghreb
- 18:01 ..... Isha

#### CHURCHES

- St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweileh, Tel. 810740
- Assemblies of God Church Tel. 632785
- St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
- Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
- De la Salle Church Tel.

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

661757.

Terra Santa Church Tel. 622366

Anglican Church Tel. 652826

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

Armenian International Church Tel. 827126

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 845457

The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932

Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691

The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

English-speaking Latin Catholics Parish Tel. 614190

Amman 16. Aqaba 23 Humidity readings: Amman 56 per cent, Aqaba 38 per cent.

#### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

##### NIGHT DUTY

Dr. Wafiq Qaddumi ..... 893542

Dr. Nasser Ibrahim ..... 830432

Dr. Bahjat Bader ..... 83642

Dr. Khalil Al Tusi ..... 757253

Firas pharmacy ..... 661912

Ferdows pharmacy ..... 890280

Al Asema pharmacy ..... 637055

Al Salam pharmacy ..... 636730

Yacoub pharmacy ..... 644945

Shmeisani pharmacy 637660

Nairoukh pharmacy ..... 623672

Najib pharmacy ..... 847632

IRBID:

Dr. Ahmad Qanu ..... 281484

Al Quds pharmacy ..... (-)

ZARQA:

Dr. Tariq Hijawi ..... 985445

Khalifeh pharmacy ..... 985417

#### EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341

Civil Defence Emergency 199

Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade ..... 617101

Blood Bank ..... 775121

Highway Police ..... 843402

Traffic Police ..... 896390

Public Security Department 630321

Hotel Complaints ..... 605800

Price Complaints ..... 661176

Water and Sewerage Complaints ..... 897467

Amman Municipality Complaints ..... 787111

Telephone Information (directory assistance) ..... 121

Overseas Calls ..... 010230

Central Amman Telephone Repairs ..... 623101

Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101

Jordan Television ..... 773111

Radio Jordan ..... 774111

Water Authority ..... 680100

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power Company 636381

RJ Flight Information 08-53200

Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

#### HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32

Khalidi Maternity, 644281/6

Akileh Maternity, 642441/2

Jabal Amman Maternity 642362

Malhas, J. Amman ..... 636140

Palestine, Shmeisani 607071

Shmeisani Hospital 669131

University Hospital 845845

Al-Muasher Hospital 6672279

The Islamic, Abdali 666126/37

Al-Ahli, Abdali ..... 664164/6

Italian, Al-Muhajreen 771010/3

Al-Bashir ..... 775111/26

Army, Marka ..... 891611/15

Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50

Amal Hospital ..... 674155

The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 865199

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323

Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560

Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732

Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)990990

IRBID:

Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555

Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275

Ibn Al Nafees Hospital (02)247100

AQABA:

Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200 where it should always be verified.

Information on other flights are supplied on phone 08 (52700) or 08(53250).

#### ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

07:25 ..... Damascus (RJ)

07:35 ..... Laraca (RJ)

08:35 ..... Jeddah (RJ)

08:45 Singapore, Abu Dhabi (add) (RJ)

08:50 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)

10:30 ..... Jeddah (add) (RJ)

14:45 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)

16:25 ..... Toronto, Montreal (RJ)

16:25 ..... London (RJ)

16:35 ..... Frankfurt (RJ)

16:45 ..... Istanbul (RJ)

17:45 ..... Madrid, Geneva (RJ)

17:50 ..... Brussels, Vienna (RJ)

18:40 ..... Paris, Brussels (RJ)

18:55 ..... Berlin (add) (RJ)

23:10 ..... Beirut (RJ)

00:50 ..... Beirut (RJ)

03:55 ..... Cairo (RJ)

07:50 Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta (add) (RJ)

Other Flights

09:30 ..... Cairo (MS)

10:00 ..... Sanaa, Hudaidah (Y)





## Queen receives interfaith award Spouse of accused child assassin testifies to a 'normal family life'

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Monday was the first Muslim to be honoured by the Temple of Understanding, a global interfaith non-governmental organisation, during the inaugural Juliet Hollister Awards dinner ceremony at the United Nations, a Royal Court statement said.

Board member of the Temple of Understanding, Clarissa Bronfman, presented the award to the Queen saying that "through the work of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation and as an individual, [she] has established programmes which promote comprehensive socio-economic development, foster cross-cultural understanding and enhance global cooperation and peace through dialogue and intercultural exchange."

In her remarks, the Queen said that His Majesty King Hussein "is here in spirit, for in his lifetime quest for pan-Arab unity, and peace and cooperation in the Middle East, he has been motivated by both spiritual and temporal responsibilities."

According to the statement, she added that "these have fundamentally influenced the character and identity of modern Jordan and its commitment to political and social tolerance and pluralism, social solidarity and equity and participatory governments."

The Queen affirmed that Jordan "over many years has become a regional and international centre for interfaith activities — part of an encouraging and expanding international dialogue which should play an important role in helping the peoples of the Middle East to transcend the barriers of ignorance and fear of our recent history."

She stressed the importance of "broadening interfaith dialogue from the realm of intellectuals and theologians to include all levels of society, especially the young, by promoting in the educational system the opportunity for children to learn from an early age the common values and beliefs of different religions and how they enrich us all."

There are two categories of

Juliet Hollister Awards: one for secular figures, such as the Queen, who have promoted greater understanding of spiritual values in various fields and professions, and another for religious figures whose mission has been to bring interfaith values into churches, temples and mosques.

Two such religious figures, who were also honoured at the ceremony, are Reverend Dean James Park Morton of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, co-founder of the National Religious Partnership for the Environment with the participation of 53,000 congregations of every faith across America encouraging ideas of ecological and environmental responsibility, and His Holiness Sri Swami Sachidananda of the Satchidananda Lotus Shrine Ashram, who is regarded by many as an "apostle of peace" for his sponsorship of numerous interfaith activities around the world.

In its nearly forty years of activity, the Temple of Understanding, which was founded by Mrs. Juliet Hol-

lister, has been dedicated to fostering interfaith dialogue, education and cross-cultural understanding among the members of the world's religions, the statement said.

Since the 1992 Rio Summit, the temple, which is in consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), has played a decisive advisory role in all of the United Nations NGO Conferences.

The Temple has organised seminars and meetings in Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and Egypt and has worked closely with Al Al Bait Foundation's "Islamic-Christian National Dialogue Committee" in Jordan.

Leila Boutros-Ghali served as honorary chair of the event, which was attended by Permanent Representative of Jordan to the U.N. Ambassador Hassan Abu Nimah and Mrs. Abu Nimah and Deputy Permanent Representative of Jordan at the United Nations HRH Prince Zeid Ben Ra'd.

By Rana Hussein  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The mother of two children who were killed by cyanide last September, Tuesday appeared in court and testified that she led "a normal family life."

Hiam Hamoudeh, 33, wife of Mazen Masri who is accused of poisoning and killing his two children and also faces charges of attempted murder of both his wife and children, testified, "we were living like any normal married couple and my relation with my husband was good."

Mr. Masri confessed in front of the prosecution on Sept. 25 to poisoning his two children, Hanin, nine, and Hani, six, by giving them two cyanide pills on the morning of Sept. 11.

He also confessed to a previous attempt at murdering his family on Aug. 9, 1996, by opening a gas bottle in the couple's bedroom where his wife and two children were sleeping.

Ms. Hamoudeh, testifying for the prosecution, told the court that on Aug. 9, she returned home with her

husband and children at 8.15 p.m. and told her husband that she was suffering from a headache and wanted to sleep.

"My children asked to sleep with me and we all went to the bedroom and slept," Ms. Hamoudeh told the court, adding that her husband had told her that he was on his way to the store to purchase a neon light.

"An hour later," she added, "I woke up smelling gas and so I went to the kitchen and checked the gas cylinders of the oven, but they were closed, so I went back to sleep," she said, adding that she did not see her husband, but that "the light and television, in the living room where my husband was sitting, were turned on."

At around midnight, Ms. Hamoudeh maintained, she was reawakened, this time by a hissing sound and when she went to check she found a gas bottle placed behind her bedroom door.

"I rushed to the living room and asked my husband, who was lying on the couch, if he had placed the gas bottle behind the bedroom door and he said no," she said.

According to Ms. Hamoudeh, the gas bottle she found in her bedroom was used for the portable gas heater which was located in the living room, and it was nearly empty "as we did not replace it after winter."

She added that she and her husband discussed the "strange incident" with (Mr. Masri's) family the following day.

In describing her husband, Ms. Hamoudeh painted a person of extremes.

"He could be kind in his treatment of the children, however, on the other hand, if they misbehaved he would be harsh in his punishments," she said.

Last month, Mr. Masri retracted his previous confessions claiming that they were fabrications and that he would justify his statements at a later date.

On Sept. 11, Ms. Hamoudeh allegedly found her children collapsed in their Abu Oneizah Housing Complex apartment, after returning home from giving her husband a ride to his work.

Zakiah Bishawi, a secretary who worked at the

National Information Centre at the Higher Council of Science and Technology where the defendant was employed, told the court that Mr. Masri often came early and stayed long after normal work hours were over.

Also testifying for the prosecution was the family's neighbour Halah Khatib, 47, who told the court that on the morning of the incident, her neighbour Ms. Hamoudeh knocked on the door requesting help.

"[Ms. Hamoudeh] asked me whether my husband, who is a doctor, was at home as she had found her daughter unconscious near the apartment door," Ms. Khatib recounted.

"I informed her that my husband was not home and I asked her about Hani and she returned to her apartment and started screaming after finding Hani also unconscious," Ms. Khatib said.

The arbitration comprised of justices Abdul Ruhman Tawfiq, Miftah Nubeidin and Ismael Hmouz set next Thursday, Dec. 19, to hear other prosecution witnesses.

### Crown Prince Hassan addresses clergy, scholars in commencement ceremony

AMMAN (Petra) — HRH Crown Prince Hassan Tuesday distributed diplomas to ulemas and wa'ez (Islamic scholars and clergy) affiliated to the Jordanian Armed Forces at the headquarters of the Royal Guard Battalion.

In a brief speech at the graduation ceremony, the Prince stated "Jordan will remain a nation with a noble mission advocating good morals and pursuing national objectives, despite frustrations and setbacks challenging the country and

the difficulties and dangers facing the Arab Nation."

Prince Hassan added that through faith in God and under the leadership of His Majesty King Hussein Jordan is destined to attain its objectives of building national institutions, including the Jordanian Armed Forces.

Urging the graduates to help spiritually direct the nation, Prince Hassan said that the clergy and religious ulemas ought to follow in the footsteps of the nation's builders and benefit from

the wisdom of the Kingdom's founder, the late King Abdullah, who faithfully served his nation in defending the Arab homeland.

He said that Jordan and its religious leaders continue to advocate the Prophet Mohammad's mission in fighting moral depravity and immoral acts while disseminating Islam.

Attending the ceremony were the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Marshal Abdul Hafez Kaabneh and senior army officers.

### Princess opens annual bazaar for the disabled

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputising for Her Majesty Queen Noor, HRH Princess Rania Al Abdullah Tuesday opened the annual bazaar of the Al Hussein Society for the Care and Rehabilitation of the Physically Handicapped at Amman Marriott Hotel.

A total of 23 embassies and 12 clubs as well as foreign voluntary societies are displaying a range of products in the bazaar.

The displayed items range from ornaments and gifts to food, the society stated, and proceeds will go towards benefiting the handicapped under the auspices of the organisation.

The society provides education and training to more than 100 disabled children.

Founded in 1973, the society has initiated Al Kanz project which is spearheaded by HRH Princess Dina Raad, to enable the disabled to produce handicrafts for the market.

Attending the opening ceremony was Society President HRH Princess Majedah Raad and representatives of diplomatic missions in Jordan.

### Media's basic objective must be public involvement in social issues — minister

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Information Marwan Muasher Tuesday opened a two-day seminar on the media's role in implementing a national strategy on population and development, stressing that the media's basic objective must be to actively involve the public in social and national issues.

He told the 52 participants that the media must widen the scope of public knowledge and enhance affiliation to the nation, while aiding in implementing a course of sustainable development.

"To achieve these goals, the country must adopt an information strategy which allows for a wide diversity of programmes providing all sectors of the public with information contributive to the new social structure," he stated.

"Population and development are closely linked and imply a need for including sectors involved in the designing as well as the implementation of development schemes," the minister elucidated.

He underlined the role of popular education and communication as a catalyst towards achieving aspired goals.

Secretary General of the Jordanian Population Commission Mohammad Salameh addressed the meeting maintaining that the high population growth rate outweighs current and future resources and that this dilemma is destined to cause a shortfall in social services.

Habitat Representative Lina Obeidat echoed this view while adding that the population growth rates in the developing world increase pressures on basic

social services and drain natural resources.

She explained that in the years 1992-1996, Habitat has been successfully implementing projects in reproduction, health, family planning and in promoting national strategies on population and development.

During the meeting, participants will review several reports dealing with the Kingdom's population in the context of a general 1994 census as well as the impact of rapid population growth on development, production, services and natural resources.

The meeting was organised by the Jordan Radio and Television Corporation in conjunction with the UN Fund for Human Settlements (Habitat) and is being held at the Jerusalem Hotel.

### Lecture debates media role in political campaigns

By Tanya Habjouqa  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The effects of the media on the political arena and influence of political ads in determining the American presidency, was the subject of an American Embassy lecture, last night.

Professor of political science at Duke University David Paley, addressed the symposium with a wry smile as he showed various film clips from political campaigns, detailing ad strategies and their resultant effectiveness.

In an ad from the 1992 (former President George) Bush campaign, Dr. Paley described how ominous music in the start of the clip combined with a focusing in on an African-American prisoner could leave a negative impression concerning (his opponent at the time, Michael) Dukakis' prison policies.

However, "the public is less vulnerable than you might think, they have a cynical, 'convince-me' attitude towards political campaigns," he said.

Other film clips pictured different candidates in grass roots, familiar settings, often hugging a child or shaking hands with a working person, in an attempt to conjure a warm image.

"These ads, if done well, contain powerful imagery which leave a public impact and thereby definitely play a role in determining the (United States) presidency," he concluded. Dr. Paley will be addressing women's issues today at the Journalism Department of Yarmouk University.

### Three people killed in vehicle collision

By Rana Hussein  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Three people were killed, and one was listed in critical condition, early Tuesday in a road collision in Mafrag, 35 kilometres from Jordan's northern border with Iraq, according to official reports.

The accident occurred at 3.30 a.m. on the Amman-Iraq highway and involved a trailer hauling crude oil from Iraq and a transportation vehicle headed in the same direction.

An official source told the Jordan Times Tuesday that the trailer struck the car from behind, pushing it

over a 50-metre stretch of road, then rolled over and burst into flames.

"It is likely that the driver of the trailer was not paying attention, struck the vehicle in his path and caused the immediate death of its driver," the official said.

He added that the transportation vehicle had an internal supply of many gallons of gas, which spilled on impact "and set off the crude oil hauled by the trailer."

A CDD official told the Jordan Times that the driver of the trailer and another passenger were found dead 15 metres away from the damaged vehicle.

A third passenger riding in the trailer, Abdul Munem Mohammad, 20, also suffered burns and was rushed to Ruqiedah Government Hospital. He was later transferred to Al Bashir Hospital in Amman, the official said.

An official at the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) at Al Bashir Hospital, where Mr. Mohammad is being treated, told the Jordan Times that his 70 per cent of his body was covered with burns.

"He is in critical condition and his chances of survival are about 50-50," the official said.

The deceased were identified by CDD officials as: Abdul Rahman Mohammad Amin, 27, driver of the transportation vehicle, Abdul Salant Ahmad Khasaleh, 20, the driver of the trailer, and Mureen Qassem Khasaleh, 18.

All those involved in the accident were Jordanian citizens.

A total of 42 people were killed last month and 1,145 were injured in 3,098 road accidents in the Kingdom, according to recent statistics released by the traffic department.

### 'Limited maritime transport with Israel'

AMMAN (Petra) — Maritime transport between Jordan and Israel is limited and has not even reached the hoped-for minimum level, Jordan Ports Corporation (JPC) Director General Mohammad Dalabih stated Tuesday.

According to him, the two sides have thus far only exchanged shipments of live sheep and cattle since the conclusion of the 1994 peace treaty.

However, he said that tourism activity between Egypt, Israel and Jordan has surged of late and that there has been a substantial rise in the number of passenger ships docking in Port of Aqaba.

Ships carrying tourist groups and travelling between Sinai, Nweibeh and Sharm Al Sheikh have increased due to jump package tour programmes

between Jordan, Israel and Egypt, he noted.

Mr. Dalabih specified that the JPC has established a modern passenger station at the port to promote tourism, adding that the Arab Maritime Bridge Company, which operates a ferry boat service between regional ports has recently purchased a 250-passenger fast boat.

Furthermore, the JPC is currently constructing a passenger quay to facilitate tourist crossing into or out of Aqaba, he added.

The Aqaba Region Authority (ARA) had announced last October that it was instituting a tourism development plan in Aqaba, slated to attract a potential 200,000 tourists annually by the year 2000.

The plan provides for the recreational development of the Aqaba coast lands and beaches as well as two major hotels.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

FILM

\* "Scarlett" (pt II) at the British Council, Jabal Amman; at 6:00 p.m.

LECTURE

\* "The Life of Jesus Christ: A New Vision" by Ms. Nelly Lina at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jabal Amman at 6:00 p.m.

SEMINAR

\* Seminar on "The Role of Political Parties in Defending Human Rights" by Mr. Ezzam Enoush and Dr. Sulaiman Sweis at the Jordanian Democratic Party headquarters at 6:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS\*

\* "Special show and sale of Christmas crafts at the Jordan Crafts Centre (Alaydi), Jabal Amman, Second Circle (Tel. 644555), until Dec. 31.

\* Christmas special at the Jordan River Designs showroom (hand-made ornaments and decoration), Jabal Amman, First Circle (Tel. 613081/2), until Dec. 31.

\* Painting exhibition by Hind Nasser at the Jordan Arts and Crafts Centre/Artisana, Jabal Amman (Tel. 647858), until Jan. 10. Also displaying a regular exhibition of arts and crafts and Christmas items.

## 'THE SOUND OF MUSIC'

### AT FORTE GRAND AMMAN

Seven folkloric songs by musicians from Upper Austria will entertain you from the 19th-20th December. Under the patronage of His Excellency Michael Stieglbauer the Austrian Ambassador to Jordan the Andalusia restaurant will bring the flavours of Austrian cuisine in a menu created with products imported by Al-Abbas-Abela. Every day from the 17th-20th the folkloric group will perform in our lobby from 6:00pm-7:00pm & in the Andalusia restaurant from 8:00pm-11:00pm. Excepted Friday, 20th December.

P.O. Box 959029 Amman 11110 Jordan. Tel 962 1111111 Fax 962 1111111

Forte Grand and Le Meridien Hotels & Resorts in the Middle East. Other properties in your area include Le Meridien Doha-Qatar, Le Meridien Lufthansa, Le Meridien Helsinki, Le Meridien Cairo, Forte Grand Pyramids.



## Mobutu returns to war-torn Zaire

KINSHASA (AFP) — President Mobutu Sese Seko arrived in Zaire's capital Kinshasa Tuesday after four months of absence during which rebels took over much of the east of the country.

He arrived at 3:15 p.m. (1415 GMT), Zaire National Radio reported from the airport.

Mr. Mobutu, one of the last of the old guard of African strongmen, left his French Riviera villa earlier Tuesday to return home after being treated for cancer and convalescing in Europe.

Officials gathered crowds to welcome Mr. Mobutu at Kinshasa Airport, but that will not mask the chaos in a country no longer fully under his sway.

Rebels controlling the east of the country are intent on pressing on to Kinshasa and overthrowing the 66-year-old president, whose country did not send a representative to an African summit in Kenya held Monday and Tuesday, notably to discuss the crisis in Zaire.

Mr. Mobutu, whose isolation in France while his impoverished country was embroiled in civil war has led to widespread discontent, was expected to waste little time in trying to re-assert his authority.

The head of state is due to go to the Tshatshi Barracks, where his Presidential Guard is based, to broadcast an address to the nation, which faces a political chaos in Kinshasa as well as the rebellion in the east.

Meanwhile, about 120,000 exhausted Rwandan refugees have arrived in Lubutu, eastern Zaire, many needing emergency care after trekking hundreds of kilometres from camps near the Rwandan border. UNICEF said here Tuesday.

"It is certain that people died on the way," during the several weeks when they were bereft of humanitarian aid, spokeswoman Margherita Amodeo of the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) said.

She was unable to give precise figures. The first refugees who came last week to Lubutu, 1,300 kilometres northeast of Kinshasa, were in relatively good shape apart from swollen feet.

But those who arrived later were worn out, malnourished, dehydrated and often sick, said Ms. Amodeo.

Hundreds of refugees are asking for emergency treatment

and the worst cases have been put on drips.

"People are skeletal," she said, citing the case of a 19-year-old woman who was too weak to feed her nine-month-old baby who is suffering from extreme malnutrition.

Most of the refugees in Lubutu came from Mugunga Camp, near Goma, which was the world's largest refugee centre before most of its population left to return to Rwanda in mid-November after more than two years in exile.

The refugees at Tingi Tingi, near Lubutu, conducted their own census, saying the count totalled 120,000.

While more than 600,000 Rwandan Hutus have gone home since rebels launched an insurrection and captured large swathes of eastern Zairean territory in October and November, scores of thousands of others moved further into Zaire with displaced local people.

In a separate development, Hutu refugees streamed home to Rwanda Tuesday while Tanzanian authorities were rounding up suspected hardliners accused of intimidating them against returning, U.N. officials said.

Aid officials said 70 intimidators had been seized by Monday and were being transferred to a camp in the Karagwe region.

Former Interahamwe militiamen and Hutu troops refuse to go back to Rwanda, saying they will be attacked or jailed for their role in the genocide of minority Tutsis in 1994.

Aid officials said they expected intimidators among the refugees to be handed over to Rwandan authorities by Tanzania.

"On Monday trucks of young men were being driven north under police escort," said UNHCR spokeswoman Judith Melby in Ngara.

Paul Stromberg, a spokesman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), said an estimated 160,000 refugees were on roads heading towards the Tanzanian-Rwandan border Tuesday.

"We expect today the same figure to cross as on Monday when a total of 107,000 passed through the Rusomo border crossing," said Mr. Stromberg by telephone from the Rwandan capital Kigali.

"We expect the same number today and probably will see it (the flow) stretching on over the next two or three days."



Zaire's President Mobutu Sese Seko (centre) arrives by car at Nice International Airport Tuesday before boarding his jet (rear). President Mobutu left France for his battered homeland after six weeks convalescing from the French Riviera from cancer surgery (Reuters photo)

## Mandela accepts role in Great Lakes crisis

NAIROBI (R) — African leaders left Kenya Tuesday

after a low-key summit on the Zaire conflict which persuaded South Africa's influential president, Nelson Mandela, to accept a more prominent role.

The summit chose Mr. Mandela and the presidents of Kenya, Zimbabwe and Cameroon to head peace efforts in eastern Zaire and the unstable "Great Lakes" region of central Africa.

Zaire boycotted the Nairobi summit and its absence prevented any real breakthrough, delegates said.

Justifying its boycott, French-speaking Zaire said Tuesday the Nairobi summit was a masquerade put together by an alliance of

English-speaking countries

which were seeking to destabilise it.

"There were an impressive number of countries at the summit who have nothing to do with the Great Lakes, giving it a falsely international character," Information Minister Boguo Makele told Reuters in Kinshasa.

Mr. Mandela took part in high-level talks on the Great Lakes crisis for the first time. He left early, after two hours of closed-door talks Monday evening, and the summit was over by midnight Monday, a day ahead of schedule.

Delegates said the nine leaders present discussed the rebellion in eastern

Zaire alone, without even their ministers.

A final communique released Tuesday noted that security had worsened in the region — roughly comprising Zaire, Rwanda, Burundi and parts of Uganda and Tanzania — since the leaders last met here on Nov. 5.

The communique called again for a ceasefire in eastern Zaire and "called upon the parties to the conflict to commit themselves to a negotiated peaceful settlement."

Zaire has rejected talks with Laurent Kabila's rebels who control key eastern towns two months after launching a well-planned offensive against President Mobutu's rule.

## Hong Kong's future leader assails Britain's stance on new legislature

HONG KONG (R) — Hong Kong's future leader Tung

Chee-Hwa attacked the British and Hong Kong governments Tuesday for refusing to recognise a new legislature that China plans to install in the territory next year.

Mr. Tung, addressing the business community before flying to Beijing for anointment as chief executive-designate by China's Communist leadership, listed the do's and don'ts that he said were vital to the territory's success after it reverts to Chinese rule next July 1.

He said most things in Hong Kong would be unchanged, but he warned people to be sensitive towards China's sovereign rights.

"I believe it is wrong for Britain and the Hong Kong government to ignore the reality of the provisional legislature. Instead, for the long-term interests of Hong Kong, I urge them to face the reality and work together constructively," he said.

The former shipping company boss said the controversy over the assembly could be swiftly resolved by China's parliament passing a law to make its legitimacy rock solid if people continued to question its legitimacy.

The legislature is to be

formed this Saturday by a

China-controlled, 400-member Selection Committee that is meeting over the border, in the city of Shenzhen in case of any legal challenge in the Hong Kong courts.

Britain has constantly attacked the move as one not envisioned in handover agreements and questioned its legality.

"In any case, even the best legal expert in Hong Kong confirmed that the question of legality can be settled once and for all by another act by the standing act of the National People's Congress, if it is needed," Mr. Tung said.

China, upset by electoral reforms in the last years of British rule, has sworn to install the interim body to replace the elected legislature after the 1997 handover.

Governor Chris Patten criticised the body in an interview with the French newspaper Liberation Monday, saying he would never cooperate with it. "This echo chamber has no place in the political or administrative life of Hong Kong," he said.

In what was his first major speech since winning the leadership last Wednesday, Mr. Tung also recited his recipe for Hong Kong's

continued future success.

"We must ensure the smooth transition of the civil service. We must uphold the principle of meritocracy. We must not let corruption creep into our dedicated and efficient civil service," he said.

"We must preserve the freedoms all Hong Kong citizens have enjoyed... However, in the pursuit of this freedom, we must be mindful and sensitive to our sovereign's aspirations in the international arena and be particularly sensitive to the feelings of Chinese people in areas of sovereignty and territorial integrity," he said.

Mr. Tung assured the community that Hong Kong would maintain the rule of law, an independent judiciary and fair competition.

He was chosen by the Selection Committee with an overwhelming 80 per cent of the 400 votes.

Later Tuesday, he was to fly to the Chinese capital for his first face-to-face meeting with China's President Jiang Zemin and Premier Li Peng since his selection.

It was Jiang who signalled in January that Tung was China's favourite for the job when he singled out the tycoon for a warm, personal handshake at a reception in Beijing.

## Corsican separatist leader surrenders

AJACCIO, Corsica (R) — Hardline Corsican separatist leader Francois Santoni

turned himself in to police on the French Mediterranean island Monday, hours after his girlfriend was arrested in an extortion probe.

Mr. Santoni, 36, who had been living in hiding for months in the Corsican hills, surrendered in the northern town Bastia and was being flown to Paris for questioning by anti-terrorism magistrates, police said.

At the same time, separatist gunmen defiantly machine-gunned a paramilitary gendarmerie station in the southern Corsican town of Banifacio, pumping 14 bullets into the building hut causing no casualties.

Mr. Santoni is head of the Cuncolta Naziunalista, a legal front for the hardline historic wing of the outlawed Corsican National Liberation Front (FLNC), which has claimed responsibility for dozens of attacks on public buildings on

Corsica and mainland France in the past few months.

"We are reaching the hard core (of the FLNC)," Interior Minister Jean-Louis Debré told reporters shortly before Mr. Santoni surrendered. "Thirty people linked directly or indirectly to the bomb attacks have been put behind bars in recent months and six more are under arrest and soon to join them."

Prime Minister Alain Juppe said in a television interview the ambiguities of government policy on Corsica, which he said had existed for 10 or 15 years, were over "and from now on, we will arrest those who resort to violence."

"If we thought a majority of Corsicans backed the terrorists, there would be a problem but that is not the case."

"The immense majority of Corsicans want to see the law respected... and we will see that is done," Mr. Juppe said.

Police were seeking Mr. Santoni to serve a four-month sentence for illegally carrying guns. Since last week, he was also wanted in connection with the bombing of a golf club which refused to pay a four million Franc (\$800,000) "revolutionary tax."

His companion, lawyer Marie-Helene Mattei, was arrested in that case hours before he surrendered. The golf club owner says Ms. Mattei told him on her cellphone to expect the "collectors."

Interior Ministry sources said police found a pump shotgun and a bulletproof vest at the home of Ms. Mattei, 47, herself a Cuncolta politician specialising in defending separatists.

A wave of separatist bomb attacks, virtually always carried out at night against empty premises, have badly hit Corsica's tourist trade, the island's biggest industry.

## Suicide bomber kills senior police commando in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO (AFP) — A

Tamil Tiger suicide bomber Tuesday assassinated Sri Lanka's top field commander of the elite Special Task Force (STF) commando unit, officials said.

Police Senior Superintendent Upali Sahabandu was killed instantly when a motorcyclist strapped with explosives blew himself up himself against the officer's jeep in the eastern coastal town of Karaitivu, officials said.

Sahabandu's driver was seriously wounded in the daring trade-mark suicide attack, carried out by a member of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) as he drove to his main base at Karaitivu, a police official said.

STF troops in the island's east were commanded by Sahabandu, 54, who was also a member of the National Olympic Council and a former president of the country's Judo Association.

"He had an escort of STF men travelling in other vehicles," a local official said. "But the motorcyclist came in front and rammed against Sahabandu's jeep, killing him on the spot."

In another incident in the north-east of the country, Tiger guerrillas exploded a mine Tuesday, killing seven soldiers who were fishing at a lake in the village of Jankapura, defence sources said.

The centre had rated the danger of an avalanche in the Whistler area as moderate Monday. Dennis said this meant that a natural avalanche was unlikely but a human-triggered avalanche possible. "That could mean the weight of the skiers set it off," he said.

In an avalanche, a torrent of snow and debris can bury a person within seconds. Injury or death can result from suffocation or a blow to the body. Avalanches commonly occur where fresh or loose snow sits on top of frozen, packed snow.

An average of seven people are killed each year in Canada by avalanches, most of whom are heli-skiers, Canadian press said.

The previous worst avalanches each killed seven heli-skiers.

Seven people on a tour operated by Mike Wiegler Helicopter Skiing were swept to their deaths on the Monashee Mountains near Blue River in British Columbia in 1987. Seven skiers also died in an avalanche near Golden, British Columbia 500 kilometres northeast of Vancouver in 1979, Canadian press said.

They were the first in the company's 10-year history. In heli-skiing, skiers are taken by helicopter to remote areas unreachable by lifts. They ski down the mountain, usually with a guide. Conditions can be treacherous in the back country where, unlike on developed ski runs, no avalanche control measures are taken. Skiers usually carry locating devices which emit a signal to help rescuers in an emergency.

The weather in Whistler was clear with a light wind Monday with temperatures around 16 degrees Fahrenheit (minus 9 Celsius) in the late afternoon. Whistler Resort said.

The town of Whistler, about 120 kilometres north of Vancouver, has consistently been rated one of the top ski resorts in North America and attracts many visitors from Europe, the United States and Asia.

Mr. Montague said the avalanche was rated class two, which is considered "major" and heavy enough to bury people. Alan Dennis, manager of the Canadian Avalanche Centre in Revelstoke, British Columbia, said avalanches are rated on a scale of one to five with five being the most serious.

Jason Roe, manager of Tyax Heli-Skiing, said his company was involved in the incident but had few details of what happened. The group was skiing with a local guide when the avalanche struck at 2:45 p.m. pst/5:45 p.m. est (2245 GMT), he said. The deaths

## Bomb kills woman, injures 48 in Colombia

BOGOTA (R) — A power-

ful car bomb rocked a residential district of Medellin early Monday, killing a woman and injuring at least 48 other people, police said.

About 50 kilograms of dynamite packed into a minibus blew up outside the house of Juan Gomez Martinez, a regional newspaper editor, politician and former provincial governor.

The Colombian government said it suspected drug cartels were behind the massive blast. President Ernesto Samper vowed not to bow to terrorist violence from drug traffickers.

"We will not allow the specter of narco-terrorism to return to this country and intimidate us," he told reporters.

"The state will combat these acts of violence head-on."

Five unidentified gunmen, one of them a woman, opened fire on private security guards near Mr. Gomez's home before the bomb went off. Medellin Police Chief Gen. Alfredo Salgado said.

He said three houses were virtually destroyed and 15 others seriously damaged by the explosion.

The dead woman was identified as Lucia Cevallos De Bernal, 60, who lived near the site of the blast. Mr. Gomez was not home at the time but one of his three sons was injured.

Authorities offered a \$150,000 reward for information leading to the capture of those responsible.

"This is a savage act. The first indications point to drug traffickers but I don't want to draw premature conclusions," said Defence Minister Juan Carlos Esguerra.

The attack came three days after the Colombian Congress approved a tough new law to strip Colombia's cocaine barons of their multi-billion dollar fortunes. Another bill to introduce stiffer jail terms for drug traffickers is due to come up for discussion in a special session of Congress later this week.

But it was not clear why Mr. Gomez, who is not a congressman, should have been targeted.

Mr. Gomez is a member of the opposition Conservative Party and head of the regional El Colombiano newspaper, which has its headquarters in Medellin.

In June last year a bomb killed 28 people in the city centre. Nobody claimed responsibility for that blast.

## Head of Algerian Islamic group killed

ALGIERS (AFP) — Al-

gerian security forces have killed the head of an armed Islamic extremist group operating in the capital, Brahim Kadi, with one of his men, the daily L'Aurore reported Tuesday.

The security forces, acting on a tip-off, surrounded a house in the impoverished eastern suburb of La Glaciere and shot dead the two men in a brief gunbattle, the newspaper said.

It published a photo of the bodies of Kadi, known as Kaalous, and his accomplice, lying on the muddy street, without shoes or belts.

"The dangerous criminals could not resist for long. They were gunned down and their weapons were recovered," the paper said.

Kaalous, the so-called "emir of La Glaciere," had been appointed to relaunch criminal activity in the district, which had calmed down because of the presence of communal guards and "patriots," or armed civilian volunteers.

His companion, Redouane Chiba, carried out many murders, the paper added. In the last, he slit the throat of a young girl "whose only mistake was to be wearing trousers," it reported.

Western diplomats estimate that more than 50,000 people have been killed, mostly civilians, since fundamentalists began a civil war against the secular authorities in 1992.

The insurrection began after the cancellation of the second round of general elections the now-outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) was poised to win in January that year.

Meanwhile, Algerian authorities have seized a weekly newspaper from the printing press in Algiers, a move seen by journalists as mirroring the "frailty" of press freedom in the country, the newspaper's staff said Tuesday.

The staff said in a statement that the authorities seized the Arab-language Al-Hourria Monday without any explanation.

"We have learnt through the press printing officials that the newspaper was seized," said Al Hourria's Chief Editor Mohammad Alouache speaking by telephone from the newspaper office in Algiers.

Algeria's government has huge power over the media.

Several newspapers and journals have been shut, usually for short periods, since 1993 when the army-backed authorities passed a law allowing them to ban newspapers carrying reports they said threatened national security and public order.

"These practices, which were inaugurated, before Nov. 28, continue today under the new constitution and confirm the frailty of the press freedom in our country," said Mr. Alouache, reading from a statement by his newspaper's journalists.

Algerians massively approved on Nov. 28 a constitution banning Muslim militants from seeking power. Journalists voiced concerns that the new constitution failed to confirm press freedom.

The seized edition of Al Hourria, seen as critical to government policy, carried a resume of a book on Algeria's security and human rights situation by leading lawyer Ali Yahia Abdenour and an interview with secular opposition leader Seddik Boudellal of the Socialist Forces Front.

Journalists have been also under attack by Muslim guerrillas who accuse them of backing the government.

More than 60 journalists have been killed in Algeria in attacks blamed, on Muslim rebels since 1993, according to the French press watchdog, Reporters Sans Frontieres.



## Electoral College ratifies Clinton win

WASHINGTON (R) — Under an oddity of the U.S. political system, President Bill Clinton was formally elected to a second term Monday when the 538-member Electoral College voted.

Under the U.S. constitution, electors from the 50 states and the District of Columbia must convene in their state capitals on the first Monday after the second Wednesday in December to ratify the outcome of the popular vote.

The result was a foregone conclusion but it will not be made public until Jan. 9 when Vice-President Al Gore will announce the vote at a joint session of Congress. Mr. Clinton won reelection over Republican Bob Dole and Reform Party candidate Ross Perot in the election that was held on Nov. 5.

In reality voters in November were not casting ballots for Mr. Clinton, Sen. Dole or Mr. Perot but for electors, who are pledged to vote for a presidential candidate.

If each of the electors fulfils his or her mandate to vote for the candidate who won the most votes in their state, Mr. Clinton will amass 379 electoral votes to 159 for Sen. Dole.

In past elections, a tiny handful of electors

have defied their duty to vote for the candidate of their party and voted for someone else.

The founding fathers of the United States established the Electoral College, the last vestige of indirect democracy in the country, because they did not trust the ability of their fellow citizens to select their president directly. They were afraid voters would be swayed by the heat of a campaign to make an irresponsible choice.

Virtually invisible to the general voting public, the Electoral College has been criticised as an outdated system that has outlived its original purpose.

Each state receives the same number of electors as it has lawmakers in the Senate and the House of Representatives. The District of Columbia, which is not represented in Congress, gets three electoral votes.

Although it has largely become an outdated relic, the Electoral College played a pivotal role in at least one election in the last century. In 1876, the College was accused of stealing the election when it elected Republican Rutherford Hayes to the White House despite the fact that he lost the popular vote to Democrat Samuel Tilden.

## Milosevic promises to recognise voters' wishes

BELGRADE (AFP) — Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic promised to respect voters' wishes during a meeting with students Tuesday, as mass protests against the cancellation of opposition victories in local polls entered their fifth week.

In his first meeting with the students since the start of the protests, the president promised "to do everything necessary so that the law and the vote of citizens is respected," students said after meeting him.

The three-strong delegation of students from Nis, Serbia's second largest city, met the president after completing a 240-kilometre relay-walk to Belgrade with 14 other students over two days.

A court in Nis Sunday overturned the ruling party's win there in the Nov. 17

election and gave the local election commission 10 days to review the results.

Mr. Milosevic held a 20-minute meeting with the students who handed him a letter demanding "the respect of the electors' wishes" in the elections in which the opposition says it won control of 15 out of 18 of Serbia's main towns, including Belgrade.

Cancellation of the results has triggered an unprecedented wave of demonstrations against Milosevic's regime, which Tuesday entered their 29th day.

"The president promised us that all those who have broken the law would be severely punished," head of the student delegation Predrag Cvjetkovic told the press.

The students said they believed this promise con-

cerned only Nis, as "the president did not want to comment on other towns."

However, they said they had "demanded punishment for all those guilty (of fraud) not only in Nis but also in Belgrade and in the other towns" where the results of the poll were cancelled to the detriment of the opposition.

In Belgrade, judicial authorities, allegedly close to the government, a week ago confirmed the cancellation of the opposition victory despite the fact the Municipal Election Commission had recognised it.

The students who said they were "satisfied" by Tuesday's meeting, said they had also handed over 17 official reports on the Nis poll proving the opposition victory.

In Pale, Bosnia-Her-

zegovina, top international official Carl Bildt said Tuesday Serbia must develop towards democracy for the good of its people, hitting out at President Milosevic for denying the need for change.

"There is a need for very substantial changes in Serbia in terms of economic and political changes and there must be a development towards democracy and fundamental economic reforms," Mr. Bildt, high representative for Bosnia, said in the Serb stronghold of Pale.

Mr. Milosevic should have "interest in long term development" of Serbia, Mr. Bildt said, adding: "He should have seen the necessity for change in terms of political and economical reforms long time ago."

The "longer he denies

that, the more difficult would be the situation for him as well. Everyone is elected or appointed forever. That's the law of democracy and of political life."

The Serbian president is facing one of his toughest challenges amid weeks of opposition street protests against the cancellation of municipal election results in districts won by the opposition.

Students, opposition parties and unions marched again in Belgrade Tuesday in the 29th straight day of protests.

"Serbia needs to be part of Europe, part of the international community and for that to be achieved there is a need for radical reforms," Mr. Bildt said, adding that "in the interest of Serbia, the change must come."

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#### Jugglers

Our Stallions DJ will take you through to the early hours. One special Christmas Eve cocktail FREE on arrival

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### Parties moving on track

IN HIS opening speech to the Conference of Arab Political Parties, which convened in Amman Monday, His Majesty King Hussein minced no words in naming democracy and respect for human rights in the Arab World as the only political values that can end Arab frustrations, oppression and chaos which for long have permeated our systems of government. This unshaken article of faith in democracy and political pluralism as the panacea to Arab woes was certainly the most appropriate theme to open such an unprecedented meeting with.

The challenge to the Arab World, however, will not end in idealistic commitments to replace dictatorships and despotic regimes with democratic governments. The realisation of pluralistic democracy and operational parliamentary systems calls for an new role to be played by political parties on the basis of updated facts and mature developments. "It may be high time for the Arab parties," the King said, "to review their progress, programmes, plans and methods to make them compatible with the new phase of our nation's history." This is a most timely reminder since many political parties continue to live in the past by articulating and pursuing agendas that were once valid but are no longer relevant. Without evolutionary changes in modern Arab political thought, it risks becoming irrelevant, archaic and fossilised.

Still the greatest challenge facing political work in the Arab World is to revive faith and confidence in our unity of purpose, as a people, and in realising the potential of integrating our capabilities and resources. At a time when the Arab governments have obviously failed to reach minimal levels of cooperation and coordination, much less unity, it becomes incumbent on Arab political parties to attempt to fill the vacuum, by at least proving that differences among officials can be transcended and altogether removed. And this is where the real value of the conference may lie. Arab politicians meet here at a time when there is a maximum number of threats against our national security but also when the promise of Arab unity cannot take a deeper dive.

This being only the start of a process in synchronising political thought on major issues, the conference cannot be expected to achieve more than identifying the principal problems facing us and drawing a wide framework in which they can be tackled.

It would be certainly a positive step if the conferees succeeded in institutionalising their meetings as well. Without a follow-up work on periodic basis, the thrust of the ongoing conference would necessarily tread on thin ice.

For Arab political parties to succeed where Arab governments have failed they need to demonstrate that they are able to rise above our petty differences, placing as they should the strategic interests of the nation above all other considerations.

### ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

OBSERVERS OF developments in the Palestinians lands cannot help observing a transformation in the relations between the Palestine National Authority and the Hamas movement, with both sides showing clear signs of ending their differences in the face of the common Israeli adversary, said Mahmoud Rimawi, a writer for Al Ra'i. The Palestinian authority has permitted the Islamic movement to organise public rallies during which Hamas supporters carried the portraits of their spiritual leader Ahmad Yassin side by side with those of Yasser Arafat, noted the writer. He said that while Hamas officially declares that its members are clinging on to their armed struggle policy against Israel, the spokesman of the movement, Mahmoud Zabar, announced that the military activities against Israel should be reexamined because they may result in negative effects on the Palestinians, as was obvious in previous instances. Both the Palestinian authority and Hamas are aware of the seriousness of the Israeli danger and both no doubt realise the need for collaboration and coordination of their stands in the face of the headline stand of the present Netanyahu government, he added. He said the Palestinian authority would act wisely if it continued to gradually set free Hamas detainees, as it has been doing lately, and Hamas would act wisely and responsibly if its leaders continued to coordinate their steps with the national authority's programmes of mobilising the nation in the face of the Israeli onslaught.

A WRITER for Al Dustour warned against any changes in the law on real estates and lands in the Jordan Valley, which stipulates that only relatives and members of the existing clans in the valley can conduct buying or selling transactions among themselves. By allowing outsiders to buy lands in the valley through amendments to the law, the government would be inviting agents working in the pay of the Israelis to purchase these lands and gradually turn them over to Israel which has its eyes on the fertile soil of the two sides of the River Jordan, charged Mohammad Subeithi. The writer said the Zionist movement does not conceal its ambitious designs of taking hold of the fertile lands on each bank and the recent Israeli government's announcement that it will never withdraw from lands along the western bank of the River Jordan stands out as the best indication of such intentions. The writer said Jordan should be aware of the danger of losing part of its Jordan Valley land to the Israelis through agents and middlemen, some of whom have been active in a similar mission on the lands on the other side of the river and in the West Bank territory. He said that the Israelis could be expected to resort to any means available to them to achieve their ends.

## 'Jordan is providentially endowed to be a free zone trading area'

By Ludwig Wahbe Tamari

WHILE RUNNING the risk of sounding as if attempting to denigrate future plans to increase the number or enlarge the areas of the present free zone outlets, I feel prompted to laud any such future plans only to the extent that they recognise the awareness of the need to liberalise the national economy, but certainly not because of the long-term effectiveness of such symptomatic measures to accommodate the increase in Jordan's volume of international trade.

Jordan's economic potential lies in it being a transit area, a storage area and a pivotal landmark in regional and international trade, with emphasis on tourism. The untapped, super rich basin of minerals of the Dead Sea area and beyond should not be overlooked either. The Herculean plans, now under serious consideration, to connect the Red Sea with the Dead Sea, who realised, will transform Jordan and the neighbouring countries into a biblical "Gardeo of Edoe."

And by virtue of its unique geographical location, an economically strong and stable Jordan will be most qualified to serve as a catalyst of goodwill for the family of nations in the region. Here lies Jordan's absolute economic advantages, along with its comparative economic potentials.

No secrets are involved in knowing how, where and when the dictates of the absolute economic advantages should be given priority over and above the comparative economic rewards or vice versa. If anything, past economic misapplications and lack of proper synchronisation between the two economic advantages could, with patience and zealous leadership, be put back on the right track.

Nonetheless, in light of the recent economic and socio-political realties which are gripping the area, Jordan can no longer afford but to think Jordan.

Gone are the days when the Kingdom had to acquiesce to the long-practised intransigence, cynicism and hickering of its neighbours.

Gone are the days when Jordan had to choose to eke out a living of voluntary impoverishment.

Now is the time for Jordan to exercise its national prerogatives of egotism and self-interest.

Only a Jordan free from artificial economic and political encumbrances can be able to negotiate terms of mutual interest with others. Only a viable, strong Jordanian economy can genuinely render help onto itself.

And when Jordanians are found helping one another and, in the process, their country, others will show readiness to help whenever help is sought.

Only Jordan, the front door to the Holy Land, the melting pot of tribalism, particularism and sectarianism, the oasis of peaceful coexistence could, by example, help bring peace and meaningful moral sustenance to the land of peace after four thousand years of no peace. It should be reminded that political liberalisation is especially concomitant with economic liberalisation.

The decision to increase the number of free zone outlets in the country, though, could hardly qualify as a function of political liberalisation, let alone of any marked enhancement of the economic advantages of the country.

By definition, economic liberalisation, under any form or formula, is prompted by the need to accommodate the ever changing socio-political demands and challenges in any society. Economic liberalisation, in principle, is never meant to cure past economic ills, but is a surgical approach to present and existing economic waywardness.

The Lilliputian endeavours to increase the number of free zone outlets, temporary, streamlined extensions of the customs areas, should, at best, be viewed as only furthering the ranks of already under-paid civil servants. Unless and until Jordan declares itself a free zone trading area in its political boundaries, from whence, the country becomes the market, and market the country.

Jordan's raison d'être in

this part of the world is tantamount to an act of faith in its destiny.

Jordan of the 21st century should cease to remain a farm for transients whose sole aim is to milk the place and to satiate their appetites for mass consumption of goods and services. Jordan, the land of practised democracy and freedom of speech, should also become the land of equal opportunity. Jordan, the free zone trading area in the region, can no more tolerate to remain pawed to bureaucratic red tape.

In the final resort, whatever is done, less in words and more in deeds, for the betterment of Jordan is for the betterment of all. Jordan's welfare and prosperity is a commitment of wills.

The writer, a businessman, contributed this article to the Jordan Times.

Dr. James Zogby's travel schedule rendered him unable to send his column. It will appear next week as usual.

## Momentous humiliation for the U. N.

By Brian Urquhart

NEW YORK — The current imbroglio over Boutros Ghali and the secretary-generalship of the United Nations is far more than a matter of personalities and intergovernmental manoeuvres. It has fundamental, perhaps decisive implications for the future of the United Nations as a political institution.

First, the very nature of the organisation is involved. Is the United Nations an association of equal independent sovereign states — a forum where the cares and concerns of all the members, however, small or weak, actually count for something? Or is it rather a place for the demonstration of the overwhelming power and influence of a very small number of great powers?

And if that demonstration is opposed, is the world organisation to be dismissed as peripheral and unimportant to the concerns and responsibilities of powerful states?

The second question concerns the nature of the office of the secretary-general. In addition to being the chief administrative officer of the organisation, is he to be the moderator and intermediary that Franklin Roosevelt, for

one, thought he should be — a role, incidentally, that has proved extremely valuable on a number of occasions during the cold war and since?

The U.N. Charter, in describing the secretary-general's functions, certainly points in this direction, but forceful objections to the political role have been raised, in the past, by Nikita Khrushchev and Charles de Gaulle, and now, it appears, by the United States. The principled independence of the secretary-general was a concept generally welcomed in the past. Is it now to be challenged?

The third issue involved in the current controversy is the concept of the international civil service. Is the United Nations Secretariat, of which the secretary-general is the head, to be a genuine civil service with the necessary independence and integrity to be entrusted with implementing decisions, running field operations, advising, suggesting courses of action and solutions to problems when necessary, and formulating ideas for the consideration of the member states? This is what the charter envisages.

Or is it to become just a servicing operation for the dealings of the member

states, staffed expediently by people seconded from governments and not, as the charter stipulates, responsible only to the United Nations?

There have recently been a number of signs pointing in this direction — massive secondments of national personnel to the Secretariat, for example. (The 124 national officers seconded to the peace-keeping department constitute more than half the staff of the department).

**"Is the United Nations an association of equal independent sovereign states — a forum where the cares and concerns of all the members, however, small or weak, actually count for something? Or is it rather a place for the demonstration of the overwhelming power and influence of a very small number of great powers?"**

The devolution of the control of some peace-keeping operations to individual member governments has had some undesirable results. And the subsidising of senior U.N. officials by their govern-

ments is another disturbing trend.

The fourth major issue raised by the current situation is the quality of the selection process and of the appointment eventually made.

In 1945 the Preparatory Commission of the United Nations had this to say: "The secretary-general, more than anyone else, will stand for the United Nations as a whole. In the eyes of the world he must embody the principles and

makes a mockery of this high objective of the founders. There seems to be no time for, or question of, either searching for the best possible person for the job or devising any serious procedure for such a search.

The independence and integrity of the secretary-general and the Secretariat were, and are, important basic principles of the U.N. Charter. In 1961, when this principle was threatened by Mr. Khrushchev, Dag Hammarskjöld warned that if it was compromised, "the Secretariat would not be available to member governments as an instrument, additional to the normal diplomatic methods, for active and growing service in the common interest."

The demise of the concept of a truly international civil service, Mr. Hammarskjöld wrote, might well prove "to be the Munich of international cooperation." It would be well to remember that warning today.

The writer is a former under-secretary-general of the United Nations. This article is reprinted from The Washington Post.

### LETTERS

#### Free zone benefits

To the Editor:

COLUMNIST FAHEH Faneek suggested in his article "Jabal Ali is out for us" (Jordan Times, Dec. 15, 1996) that the creation of a free zone area like the one mentioned cannot and should not be repeated in Jordan for two fundamental reasons: the infrastructure cost is too high to generate a reasonable yield on the investment and Jordan is a service-oriented country which needs to develop its service sector.

I would respond to this by saying, first, that Jabal Ali is a service industry, since it does not sell any goods but provides an efficient and attractive environment for investors. Second, to grade Jabal Ali based on the income statement of the facility is not accurate because it does not take into consideration the other benefits that the country receives as a result of having such a facility. For example, if one were to look into the number of ancillary jobs and businesses being supported by the existence of Jabal Ali, such as airline traffic, hotel rooms and food industry, one would realise the real value of this facility. My third and final point is that we already have several small-scale Jabal Alis scattered around Jordan. However, I agree with Mr. Faneek that they cannot compete due to the complicated bureaucracy they have been built on.

On a final note, I feel Jordan's central location is better suited than Dubai to house such a complex. However, that window of opportunity may have passed us by now.

Marwan Atalla,  
Amman.

#### Hope for peace dashed

To the Editor:

JUST WHEN we were hoping and looking forward to a peaceful existence, just when some of us risked our lives in the hope of planting the seeds of peace, just when His Majesty King Hussein was about to convince his people that Israel could be a country of peace, Netanyahu comes along with his paranoia, clad in sick military boots and trampling everything we have worked so hard for, thus reopening the fresh wounds of hate and mistrust, two human traits he seems heavily endowed with and sure recipes for war and destruction.

He has started the war of words which usually precedes the war of bombs. Netanyahu has damned our lands again and made me rethink about what some people say: "God deemed that the Jews will gather in one place and they will then be destroyed." He has shown us that people like him have always brought death and destruction onto their own people through a sick psyche of deceitful arrogance, soaked in mythical vengeful religion.

Just when most Arab countries were beginning to accept peaceful coexistence with Israel, Netanyahu would utter his cries of war. Does he think his nuclear arsenal will help defend him? The 200 nuclear bombs he tries to scare us with will be lost in the vast sea of Arab humanity surrounding him. Worse still, unleashing such horrors will leave the door wide open for the moral and physical destruction of Israel as it stands.

History will hold Netanyahu and his Likud responsible for the destruction of our world. Israel included.

Let us only hope that our dreams and the

dreams of the many good people in Israel will prevail over his arrogance and war mongering.

Nabil Sawalha,  
Amman.

#### Tribal, not religious laws

To the Editor:

I INVARIABLY admire Rana Hussein's factual reporting. In a report she wrote for the Jordan Times of Dec. 16, however, she made a bad mistake. In that report, entitled "Salt man hanged at dawn", she went off the mark by quoting Islamic jurisprudence as allowing the victim's family to take revenge on the killer's family.

I wonder where she obtained this information from, as it is contrary to Islamic jurisprudence which actually allows the victim's family to claim blood money (fadya). A declaration of clemency by the victim's family before the court may save the life of the person concerned.

Miss Hussein should quote the source from which she obtained that piece of information or else retract it.

Ali Dajani,  
Amman.

Editor's note: Mr. Dajani is right. It is indeed tribal tradition, rather than Islamic jurisprudence, that allows "the family of a victim of murder to take revenge on the killer's family up to the siblings of their fifth grandfather." The Jordan Times regrets the error, which was inadvertently made.

## Stand and deliver!

By Ali Kassay

- 1) Customs
- 2) Additional assorted fees and taxes
- 3) Fees for municipalities and universities
- 4) Additional taxes
- 5) Fees for extra work
- 6) Importation fees
- 7) Customs fines
- 8) Stamps
- 9) Miscellaneous

At a first glance, the reader would be excused for thinking that yours truly has gone completely mad and that I contrived to bash these words on the keyboard with the last dregs of semi-sanity, before I started sticking straws in my hair and chewing bits off the carpet.

After all, if this were truly (as indeed is the sad case) the list of dues that one has to pay to the Customs Department, what has it to do with municipalities? Why would an importer subsidise remote municipalities when he does not benefit from their services? Moreover, what have universities to do with all the above? Is it reasonable to ask someone to pay for the upkeep of universities, regardless of whether he has children at any of the Jordanian universities or not?

Never mind. What are "Additional assorted fees and taxes"? Even if an explanation could be provided, what further explanation can be given for the next but one item, "Additional tax"? Nor does the story end there. We move on to an item labelled: "Miscellaneous." This amounts to 50 per cent of first item, Customs. When a citizen is charged so much money, would it not be reasonable to expect more clarity?

Immediately after it, we discover that the businessman has to pay a customs fine over and above. Why? Is it now a punishable offence to do honest work? Then we come to the item labelled "Extra Work". Why is it there? Is it now extra work for civil servants to do their jobs, and are we supposed to give them further subsidies for it? Perhaps we are paying for the extra cup of tea which the customs officials have to consume in order to relieve the stress of putting pen to paper.

The worst part is that a customs official will consider any documents that you present, to establish the value of merchandise to be false. You are guilty, even if proven innocent, so he estimates a higher value at random, and charges you customs accordingly.

Looking squarely at the matter, are we not simply asking people to pay up and shut up? So why not streamline the process and extend it beyond the business community by simply sending an official to every house who would tell the occupants: "Stand and deliver, in the name of the law!"

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## Taiwan foreign minister due in Amman on private visit

TAIPEI (R) — Taiwan's foreign minister has embarked on yet another overseas mission, state media and officials said, in a trip cloaked in secrecy to evade rival China's tightening diplomatic embargo.

State media said Foreign Minister John Chang had arrived in Abu Dhabi, a member of the United Arab Emirates, on Tuesday and would then travel to Jordan on Wednesday.

(In Amman, an official said Mr. Chang would be paying a "private visit" to Jordan. The Taiwanese minister "might meet Jordanian officials, but he is coming here as a private citizen," the official told the Jordan Times).

The Taiwanese foreign ministry, adopting the tight-lipped policy seen during previous secret sojourns by Taiwan leaders, would confirm only that Mr. Chang had left the country for "official business" but would not comment on his whereabouts.

"Minister Chang... will be back in a few days," Vice-Minister Cheng Chien-Jen told reporters. "Because of other considerations we can't provide other details before (his return)."

It would be inconvenient to name Mr. Chang's hosts,

he said.

State television reported that Mr. Chang's plane was hounded by Rome but that he stopped in Abu Dhabi. State radio said the United Arab Emirates and Jordan were Mr. Chang's destinations.

President Lee Teng-Hui visited both in 1995.

The Liberty Times, quoting unidentified sources, said Mr. Chang left Taipei on Monday to visit some foreign nations that have no diplomatic ties with the island but which nonetheless maintain links with Taiwan. His trip could involve Europe, it added.

Mr. Chang and Vice-President Lien Chan have followed a similar pattern for numerous overseas trips in the past year, simply dropping from sight for days at a time as international and Taiwan media scurried to track them down.

Mr. Lien managed such a secret visit to Ukraine in August, triggering a minor row between Kiev and an irate Beijing. Mr. Chang angered China with visits to Singapore and Malaysia in September.

Mr. Chang again slipped from sight after his December visit to South Africa, where he had sought in vain to reverse Pretoria's Nov. 27 decision to switch diplo-

matic recognition to Beijing from Taipei by the end of 1997.

Mr. Chang surfaced in Belgium on Dec. 7 but failed to win access to Belgian leaders or other European or African officials there as Beijing diplomats mounted what Taiwanese officials and media said was a concerted drive to prevent such encounters.

Communist China, Taiwan's arch-rival since a civil war split them in 1949, regards the island as a rebel province ineligible for sovereign ties. It has tightened a diplomatic squeeze on Taipei in its quest to bring Taiwan under mainland rule.

Undaunted, Mr. Chang said on Monday he would visit diplomatic ally Guatemala for the Dec. 29 signing of a peace pact between its government and leftist rebels.

The trip is one of four overseas damage-control missions planned by top Taiwan officials since South Africa, Taipei's largest ally, declared it would switch ties.

Beijing refuses ties to any country that recognises Taiwan's exiled republic of China, but has stepped up efforts to win over South Africa and the 29 other states that still do.



An impoverished woman from Basra, southern Iraq, shops for foodstuff at a local market in the southern city. Under a U.N. programme Iraq may sell \$2 billion of crude oil to finance purchases of food and medicine to ease the plight of Iraqi civilians bearing the consequence of international economic sanctions (Reuters photo)

## Cyprus is sceptical of British proposal

NICOSIA (R) — A British proposal for ending the stalemate between Greeks and Turks on divided Cyprus did not go far enough to justify direct talks between the rival communities, Cyprus said on Tuesday.

"This does not constitute common ground," Cypriot government spokesman Yiannakis Cassoulides told reporters on Tuesday when asked to comment on a 10-point proposal announced on Monday by British Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind.

Mr. Rifkind, who visited the island to propel rival Greek and Turkish Cypriot sides towards peace talks, presented the proposals at a news conference before his departure. He said they offered the best basis for progress.

"Much work is needed for a ray of hope of an agreement on the five basic issues which constitute the Cyprus problem," Mr. Cassoulides said, referring to issues relating to sovereignty, territory, security, guarantees and the settlement of persons displaced after Turkey invaded in 1974 in response to a coup engineered by the military junta in Greece.

Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş, who heads a breakaway state in northern Cyprus recognised only by Ankara, has called for talks with Cypriot President Glafcos Klafides.

The Greek Cypriot side, internationally recognised as the government of Cyprus, will consent to

face-to-face talks with the Turkish Cypriots only when common ground is found on the basic issues which could ensure a successful dialogue.

In his 10-point proposal Mr. Rifkind said the boundaries of a future federation of Cyprus should not follow the present ceasefire line. A federal state should be accorded international guarantees, and he called on both sides to take steps to encourage mutual confidence as the parties slowly made peace.

The proposals, which did not contain any new element relating to the Cyprus problem, were criticised by Greek Cypriot political parties on Tuesday for "glaring discrepancies".

Communist AKEL, the island's second largest and main opposition party, said Mr. Rifkind's failure to refer to a federal Cyprus with one sovereignty and citizenship — included in all U.N. resolutions on Cyprus — was a cause for concern.

"This omission is very serious and causes concern and questions," AKEL said. Mr. Rifkind spoke only of one "international personality" in his proposals.

The United Nations have been trying to reunite the island as a bicomunal bizonal federation for decades without success.

Tension has increased perceptibly on the island in the past six months after the deaths of four people in ceasefire line incidents as both sides continue to build up their defences.

## Israel 'deplores' Clinton criticism

(Continued from page 1)

progress on Hebron hinged on the face-to-face talks. But Mr. Clinton, who has made mediating the mid-east peace process a top priority of his presidency, stressed that Washington could not dictate Israeli policy.

"The United States cannot impose a peace in the Middle East," he said.

Mr. Bar Ilan, who is also a U.S. citizen, said the Israeli government's decision to support the existing settlements was "misunderstood by the world."

When asked if he would use U.S. aid to Israel to seek a reversal of the financial aid decision, President Clinton said:

"We can create the conditions in which it is easier for peace to be made by the parties" by working to minimise the risks of those who work for peace, he said. Washington, he argued, can "exercise influence most profoundly" when it makes its views known to the parties in private.

On Hebron, the president said the talks "are at a critical juncture." He contended there has been "very little difference" between the parties "for weeks and weeks and weeks" on the withdrawal, adding "we need to get Hebron over and behind us and move on to other issues."

He called the situation "full of tension and full of frustration," and while he expressed satisfaction that Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had chartered on the telephone about the settlements issue, he declared that "sooner or later they have to do something" on Hebron. "They have an agreement within their grasp," he said, repeating the contention that there is "very little difference" between the parties.

Following are excerpts dealing with Middle East issues from Mr. Clinton's press conference comments:

press conference comments:

"We have been in active contact with both sides in the negotiations between the Israelis and the Palestinians pushing for an agreement on Hebron. There's been very little difference between them for weeks and weeks and weeks now, and we need to get the Hebron agreement over and behind us and go on to other issues."

"With regard to settlements, I believe the State Department stated yesterday what my position is, which is that it just stands to reason that anything that preempts the outcome of something that both parties have agreed to should be part of the final negotiations, cannot be helpful in making peace. And that's my concern about that."

"The talks are at a critical juncture, I think. The situation is full of tension and full of frustration. And I'm pleased that the prime minister and Chairman Arafat talked yesterday. That's a good thing — better than not talking. But sooner or later they have to do something. And they've had an agreement within grasp, with very little difference, on Hebron for some time now. The time has come to make that agreement."

"But I don't think that — that on the settlement issue that anything should be done which would, in effect, be seen as preempts the outcome of something they've already agreed to should be part of the final negotiations. And we've had a very clear position on that all along."

"I believe the United States cannot impose a peace on the Middle East. What the United States can do is to create the conditions in which it is easier for peace to be made by the parties because we work to minimise the risks of peace."

"From my point of view, sir, the most significant incentive to making peace in the Middle East is the

clear consequence of what will flow if it is not made. This is not a situation in equilibrium here. It's not as if tomorrow will be like today, and the day after tomorrow will be like today, and the day after that will be like today. This is a process that, once having been undertaken, is either going to go forward or fall back. It will either lead to greater integration or greater disintegration and greater trouble. And I think the leaders of the Middle East are well aware of that."

"It has always been my position that we exercise the influence most profoundly, when we did it in that context; when we said what we had to say to them in private, but our public role maintained its essential balanced, neutral position that we had to create the conditions in which peace could occur. And then we were morally obligated, and in terms of our interests obligated, to minimise the risks for peace. I still believe that. But I have already said what I had to say about the present situation, and I think it's pretty clear."

Saudi Arabia said Monday the Israeli decision to grant financial benefits to Jewish settlers consolidated its occupation of Arab land and violated peace agreements, the official Saudi Press Agency reported.

It said the Saudi cabinet, in a statement after a weekly meeting on Monday night, "criticised Israel's decision to encourage the building of more Jewish settlements."

It said the kingdom "sees this decision as going back on agreements between the Palestinian National Authority and Israel and a continued consolidation of Israel's occupation of Arab land."

It said King Fahd lauded the stand of the United States, a close Saudi ally, on the issue of settlements.

## 'Innocent until proven guilty' — Libyans accused of Pan Am bombing

(Continued from page 1)

AMMAN (J.T.) — Al Amin Khalifa Fuhima and Abdul Basset Ali Al Maghrahli, the two Libyan nationals indicted by the U.S. and Scotland in connection with the 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103, have spoken out in their defence, asserting their total innocence.

Their attorney, who also appeared with them during an interview with Orbit Television broadcast, attributed their indictments to fabricated evidence motivated by political aims.

Host Ittadeddin Adeeb set the scene of the day which dramatically changed the lives of the two accused: each recalled how he had come to learn of the charges, and his new status as fugitive. Their attorney reminded viewers that the two have not been convicted of any crime and, in accordance with internationally accepted judicial practice, the two men are to be considered innocent until proven guilty.

The two Libyans were indicted in 1991 by federal prosecutors in the U.S. and Scotland for involvement in the 1988 bombing, which killed all 259 passengers and crew, as well as 11 people on the ground in the small Scottish town of Lockerbie.

Both men declared their willingness to stand trial today in countries such as "Holland or Switzerland" where they could receive a fair trial, in order to end the ordeal which has ruined

their lives and those of their families.

One of the accused said: "My mother has died because of this." Both declared their innocence, one swearing on the Holy Koran that he had no connection to the bombing.

The two men's attorney refuted in great detail the evidence presented by investigators in the U.S. and Scotland, giving examples of information presented which he claimed had been falsified. He voiced

harsh criticism of the Arab press, explaining that an inaccurate version of events had come to be widely known and accepted due to coverage of the topic by the Western press alone.

Thousands of calls were received at the show from viewers across the Arab World, including one from the 13-year-old daughter of Mr. Maghrahli, who called to say: "I am certain of my father's innocence, he is a religious man who fears God."

## Union criticises Jordan

(Continued from page 12)

with so many people before," the official said. "But we chose to send him back because he consistently and persistently tried to insult this country and its leadership," the official added.

In its statement on Tuesday, the Arab Journalists Union also said that the Jordanian authorities had banned the distribution abroad of the local weekly Al Majd. The ban has caused "considerable financial losses for the paper."

"These two arbitrary measures represent an attack on democracy in Jordan," the union said, calling on Amman to immediately remedy the situation and on all Arab states to respect press freedom.

## Hamas demands cancellation of death sentences

(Continued from page 12)

Mr. Abu Marzouk, 46, was apprehended by New York immigration officials in 1995 on grounds he violated immigration laws by not declaring affiliation with Hamas when he obtained a U.S. residency permit in the late 1980s.

Last October, U.S. district judge Kimba Wood ordered that Abu Marzouk be extradited to Israel to face terrorism charges. He is appealing the ruling.

Israel has accused Mr. Abu Marzouk of murder, attempted murder, conspiracy and other charges related to 10 bombings.

Mr. Abu Marzouk has claimed he is being prosecuted for actions of the Hamas military wing, while he has only led its political wing.

The arrest has been widely seen in the Arab World as part of efforts by the United

States and Israel to pressure militant Palestinian groups to drop their opposition to peace negotiations between Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Israel.

Hamas meanwhile announced it would hold a rally in the West Bank self-rule area of Ramallah on Wednesday, their second such show of strength in a week.

The group ran advertisements in semi-official Palestinian newspapers on Tuesday announcing the rally in Ramallah, north of Jerusalem, to mark the ninth anniversary of its founding.

Thousands of supporters attended a rally last Friday in Khan Yunis in the Gaza Strip to mark the anniversary, in a show of strength after a crackdown on Hamas by Palestinian police.

The rally was the first to be allowed by the PNA in over a year and was seen as a sign of reconciliation between the PNA and Hamas.

Israeli troops on Tuesday permitted Palestinians to

enter and leave Ramallah for the first time in six days.

Israel had imposed the blockade last Wednesday, after Palestinian militants killed a Jewish settler in a drive-by shooting and then fled into Ramallah.

An army statement said troops began "gradually removing the closure on Ramallah." Some checkpoints ringing the city will remain in place, and Israeli civilians may not enter Ramallah.

Israel has asked the Palestinians to find and extradite the suspects in the shooting. Palestinian police have said their investigation is progressing, but that they would not hand over any suspects to Israel.

Israeli media, citing Palestinian sources, said a Palestinian court convicted two men of carrying out last week's shooting sentenced them to 25 years in prison each. But Palestinian officials denied that suspects were tried and sentenced.

The siege had cut off Ramallah from area villages and towns, affecting

some 200,000 Palestinians. Thousands of people in the area were unable to reach schools and the city's hospital, and many shops were closed.

On Friday, Palestinian police were thwarted in a bid to arrest the wife of militant which sparked off a protest demonstration, witnesses said.

Police seeking the unnamed member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) found him absent from home and tried to arrest his wife instead, the witnesses said.

They were rebuffed by her relatives, and a protest march of some 300 people formed, headed by Marwan Barghout, a senior official of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's Fateh movement.

The demonstrators marched on the offices of the governor of Ramallah to demand a halt to the recent arrests of PFLP members in the wake of the latter of two Israeli settlers claimed by the organisation.

## Political activists seek means

(Continued from page 1)

Mohammad Belhaj Omar from Tunisia believes that Al Nahda party — which is banned in his country — and the Islamic Salvation Front of Algeria should not be represented.

According to Mr. Omar and other Tunisian delegates, such Islamist parties call for and employ violent means to achieve their ends. These parties do not believe in democracy, they said. "Once they are in rule, they would not give the chance for other political groupings

to express their views and opinions," said Mr. Omar.

In an analysis of the contradictions and problems of the Arab mind, Eid Dihayyat, a university president, pointed to the gaps in Arab educational systems and lack of democratic practices at schools and at home. Dr. Dihayyat regretted that little attention was given to talented students, larger emphasis is put on patriarchal mentality during the educational phase and that there is no tackling of women's issues.

"Are we really tolerant with our children when they have different views than ours? Is the teacher forgiving if his students refused to repeat his words like parrots?" Dr. Dihayyat asked. "Have we really paid attention to problems of women?" The three-day conference, that is organised by the centrist Al Mustaqbal Party, will end today with an expected list of recommendations that call for enhanced Arab action. A general secretariat that will coordinate efforts among Arab political parties is expected to be established

## Uday Hussein appears on TV

(Continued from page 1)

shooting said he was slightly injured, but Iraqi opposition sources maintained he was seriously wounded and had undergone several operations.

An Iraqi source insisted Uday's life was not in danger but confirmed he was hospitalised and had undergone surgery several times. He spoke on condition his name not be used.

Iraqi opposition sources have said that in last week's attack, the assailants fired machine-guns and hurled grenades at Uday's car. But there was no official confirmation of that account.

Security forces in Baghdad reportedly rounded up 120 people after the assassi-

sination attempt, but it was unclear how many remained in custody.

Two groups seeking to overthrow the Saddam government have claimed responsibility for the attack. One is Al Dawaa, a large Al-Islamiyah, opposition group. The other calls itself the Mohammar Mazoum Al Dulaimi group, named after an Iraqi air force general executed for plotting against the regime.

The government has organised numerous public celebrations of Uday's survival. Hundreds of sheep have been slaughtered in a traditional ritual of thanksgiving, with the meat distributed to the poor of Baghdad.

## Six Red Cross delegates killed in Chechnya

(Continued from page 12)

The peace settlement on track and rebel leaders have denounced hostage taking, such as an incident last Saturday, when rebel commander Salman Raduyev seized 21 Russian soldiers.

Some Russian officials have warned rebels they could slip withdrawing troops from the breakaway region if there are more kidnappings.

The troops, sent into Chechnya in December 1994 to crush the region's independence bid, are due to

leave before elections planned for Jan. 27.

The elections are part of the peace deal between Moscow and the separatists, which also defers for five years a final decision on Chechnya's political status.

The rebels still insist on full independence but Moscow hopes to persuade them to stay within the Russian Federation.

But Russian commander, Vladimir Sukhoruchenko, said Monday the incident should not be blown out of proportion.

He noted that Commander Raduyev, a radical who led a hostage-taking raid into Dagestan last January, had no link with the Chechen separatists' political and military leadership.

"I hope that we all have enough sober sense not to let this incident harm the peace process," Interfax quoted Gen. Sukhoruchenko as saying.

Norway expressed sadness over the murder of the six Red Cross workers and called the attack a major setback for the peace process.



## Lebanon to receive over \$3 billion in aid

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Participants at an international conference to help rebuild Lebanon pledged more than \$3 billion to the war-ravaged Middle East country, the United States and Lebanon said Monday.

More than \$1 billion in aid was available immediately for Lebanon in addition to multi-year programmes exceeding \$2.2 billion, a joint U.S.-Lebanese statement said.

Secretary of State Warren Christopher announced a U.S. pledge of some \$20 million in 1997 to support economic development and help Lebanon's security forces, it added.

The United States will help train Lebanese officers and provide non-lethal equipment to the army, officials said.

Twenty-nine countries, the European Union and seven international financial organisations attended the "Friends of Lebanon" conference, which stemmed from a peace effort between Lebanon and Israel in April.

Lebanon was torn by 15 years of civil war that claimed tens of thousands of lives and devastated one of the strongest economies in the Middle East.

French Foreign Minister Hervé de Charette described the sum of more than \$1 billion for 1997 as "very remarkable" and said France alone would contribute one billion francs (about \$200 million), which he said represents about 20 per cent of the total contribution.

Mr. De Charette said the

European Union would match France's contribution.

As the pledging effort gathered steam, at least one group of Lebanese-Americans complained of the Lebanese government's ties to Syria, which maintains a heavy military presence in Lebanon.

"Any money allocated to throwing money down a sinkhole. Such obvious waste in the name of helping Lebanon ought to be avoided at all costs," the council added.

Mr. Burns conceded that the situation has improved in Lebanon since the mid-1980s when the travel ban was imposed following a wave of hostage-taking by anti-American groups operating in Lebanon.

In his statement, Lebanese Prime Minister Rafic Hariri said that his \$18 billion reconstruction drive launched in 1992 had to a large extent hinged on a domestic effort.

"The continuing support of the international community will ensure that the process of reconstruction will keep moving forward," Mr. Hariri said.

Concerning private sector aid, the United States announced two \$1 million loan guarantees to two U.S. businesses seeking to invest in Lebanon.

spokesman Nicholas Burns said.

But the State Department stopped short of lifting passport restrictions on Americans travelling to Lebanon, a move that would allow the large Lebanese-American business community to make frequent and easy returns to their homeland.

Mr. Burns hinted that Mr. Christopher may make the move before he leaves office in January to make way for President Bill Clinton's new secretary of state, Madeleine Albright.

"Secretary Christopher will keep this issue under very active review during his final month in office," Mr. Burns said. "I think you'll probably hear more from us on this in the next 20 to 30 days."

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## Israelis fail to win repeal of Palestinian import law

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AFP) — Israeli businessmen met with Palestinian trade officials on Tuesday but failed to win a repeal of a law which requires them to use Palestinian distributors for imports into the territories.

"We consider this law an impediment. We are not against competition, but we are against barriers to competition," Mandy Barak, from the Israeli Federation of Chambers of Commerce, said after the meeting with Palestinian Trade Minister Maher Al Masri.

Palestinian officials said they would maintain the law which bans imports into the territories without a Palestinian distributor.

"Israeli businessmen will have to adjust to the new situation," Palestinian Deputy Trade Minister Samir Huleih said. In the past, Israeli businesses have been able to distribute directly into the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

He said the Palestinians had agreed to delay implementation of the law from its original starting date of Oct. 1 to the beginning of 1997, when it would be put into effect "gradually and in stages."

"We won't have a situation where all Israeli goods will be taken off the shelves all at once," Mr. Huleih said. "We will coordinate with Israeli businessmen to make sure the law is implemented fairly and properly."

The two sides said they decided to form two committees to improve cooperation, one between the Israeli and Palestinian chambers of commerce and the other between business executives and the ministry.

"I think we can do a lot of things together. This meeting was a good sign, since it was the first between the Israeli business community and the Palestinian authority since May" when Prime Minister Netanyahu was elected, Mr. Barak said.

The two sides also discussed opportunities for joint ventures and the effects of the Israeli security closure slapped on the West Bank and Gaza Strip last February, which has impeded the movement of Palestinian goods.

## Saudi Arabia working on plan to raise industrial contribution to economy

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabia is studying measures to boost its industry and raise its 13 per cent contribution to gross domestic product (GDP) to help diversify from oil and increase private sector participation, King Fahd said.

He said the new measures would include "drawing on the successful experiments by other countries which achieved industrial progress within a record time to help Saudi planners lay clear and practical plans, by which the contribution of the industrial sector grows beyond the current 13 per cent of GDP."

The official Saudi Press Agency said the king was addressing the weekly cabinet meeting late on Monday. He did not elaborate on the other measures.

Saudi Arabia said this month it was reviewing its foreign capital law to introduce more incentives to international investors to a country where most foreign capital is invested in joint

ventures with Saudi firms.

Foreign capital can be invested without Saudi participation, but then it does not qualify for a range of incentives, including tax holidays.

King Fahd stressed the importance of the industrial sector in speeding up efforts to "diversify production, lessen dependence on oil, increase the contribution of the private sector, enhance the skills of Saudi labour and establish a solid technological base."

Saudi Arabia is the world's largest oil producer and exporter, but oil prices which strengthened this year after several years of weakness have prompted it to draw up plans to diversify the economy and urge a bigger private sector role.

King Fahd said by the end of May 1996 the investments of 2,476 licensed factories totalled 163 billion riyals (\$43.4 billion) and welcomed progress made by Saudi industrial companies in replacing

expatriate labour with Saudi manpower.

He said Saudi workers made up 65 per cent of the employees of the industrial and petrochemical giant Saudi Arabian Basic Industries Corp.

The king has repeatedly urged the private sector to employ more nationals and said the government would ensure that 650,000 Saudis had private sector jobs by the year 2000. Saudi Arabia's annual population growth is estimated at up to four per cent.

Petrochemicals form the cornerstone of the kingdom's industry, followed by oil refining and other manufacturing, the kingdom's 1995-2000 development plan says. It says the average annual growth of its industrial sector between 1990 and 1995 was 4.3 per cent while the sector's contribution to GDP by the end of 1995 was 13.1 per cent, of which petrochemicals accounted for 10 per cent.

## Kuwait plans tax cut to attract foreign funds

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait has prepared a bill to almost halve taxes on foreign firms operating in the Arab Gulf state to attract investments.

Finance Minister Nasser Al Rodhan told Reuters his ministry had presented the cabinet with a bill to cut the maximum tax bracket on foreign firms to

about 30 per cent from a current 55.

"It would be about 30 per cent. That is the ceiling," he said of the proposal which is yet to be reviewed by the government before sending it to parliament for approval.

"It is an important law. We would like to see it passed in the near future,"

said Sheikh Rodhan. Officials expect parliament to discuss the bill early in 1997.

The minister said foreign investment in state-owned projects could enjoy a relaxed tax formula. "We will grant desired investments a cut" in tax rates, he added.

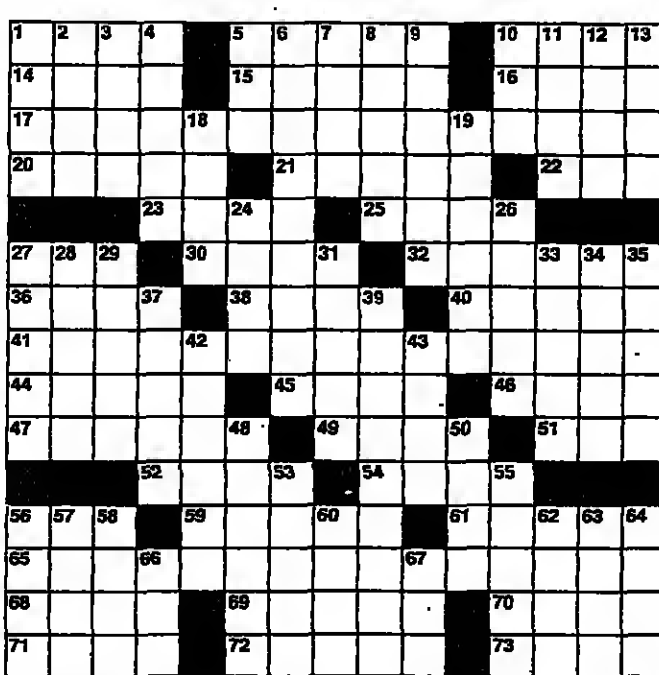
## THE Daily Crossword

### ACROSS

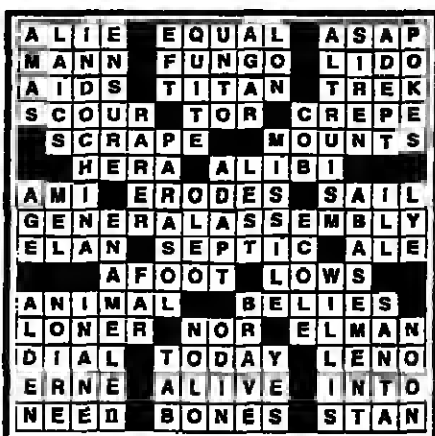
- 1 Practice boxing
- 5 "The way of in the midst..." (Bible)
- 10 Proper
- 14 Membrane
- 15 Light cake
- 16 Turner of song
- 17 Bowls
- 20 Bowl
- 21 Fred's sister
- 22 Indefinite amount
- 23 Metal fastener
- 25 Certain office help
- 27 Elevator
- 30 Not that
- 32 Double dagger
- 36 Cupid
- 38 Killer whale
- 40 Kind of surgeon
- 41 Bowls
- 44 TV part
- 45 Variable star
- 46 In one's night mind

### DOWN

- 47 Burns
- 49 Trail
- 51 — Judicata
- 52 Deceive
- 54 Sedate of song
- 56 Ready for combat
- 59 Respond
- 61 Al and Tipper
- 65 Bowls
- 68 Italian wine canter
- 69 Full of pep
- 70 Major ending
- 71 Take a break
- 72 Stage direction
- 73 Noah's son
- 1 Quit
- 2 Land of the Inca
- 3 Author Milne
- 4 Livestock farm
- 5 NYSE competitor
- 6 Junkyard derivative
- 7 Soho's bonnet
- 8 Map feature



by Stanley B. Whitten

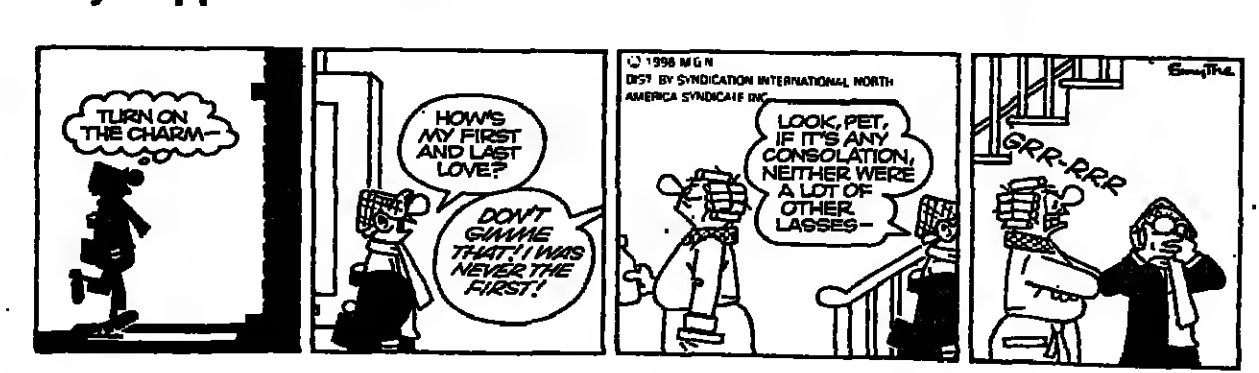


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## Peanuts



## Andy Capp



## Mutt'n'Jeff



## HOW TO GET FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1996

By Thomas S. Platan, Astrologer, Carroll Riggs Foundation

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) Get out in the business world today and enhance your standing there through the assistance of knowledgeable people. Walk and drive with care while on the highway and you can keep out of great difficulty.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) Be alert to new ideas today which can help you to get all of your affairs on a more secure structure. Later this evening make this time special for your make by planning a romantic encounter with some favourite location.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) Find better methods today for handling business matters and thereby make your career activities more successful. Avoid one tonight who is trying to come between you and your mate and thereby avoid any difficulties.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) Plan how to come to a better agreement today with outside fellow associates and then carry through wisely. Later this evening will be a good time to seek out the assistance of knowledgeable people for their abilities.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) While those huge plans down to a practical level today and thereby you can manage all of the activities required for its operation. Come right to the point with a fellow associate and save time and wasted energy.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) You know how to plan your regimens better today so that you will not meet with stumbling blocks later in the days ahead. This evening will be a good time to discuss your career activities with a bigwig and gain his or her insight.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) If you want to have a discussion with a friend today, invite this person into your home and do it there, so that there will be cool heads. Later this evening will be a good time for you and your mate to go to a special place.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) Don't permit gossip to take up your valuable time today with disinformation which could get you into great difficulty with those in authority. Carry through with your duties methodically and thereby become successful.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Look into a better method of operation today for gaining a greater attendance. Avoid one who can be troublesome so that you don't get into any difficult situations which could be avoided in the days ahead.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) You like to have everything in its rightful place and then good day today to things there. Later this evening will be good for you to seek the assistance of a bigwig and gain his or her advice on a new project.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) Be with those today who comprehend your ideas and reach accomplished with aid from them. Later this evening will be a good time for you to go out of the town with close friends and have a fun time together.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Stop all wishful thinking today and get right to work on whatever is important to your well-being and thereby make your life more successful. Later this evening you can gain the assistance of knowledgeable people for any task.

Birthstone of December: Turquoise — Zircon



## Jordan, Belarus sign trade cooperation protocol

By Ghalia Alul  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan and Belarus Tuesday signed a trade cooperation protocol with the aim of enhancing bilateral relations as well as improving foreign economic activities in both countries.

The protocol was signed by Haidar Murad, president of the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, and Vladimir Nkravich, vice president of the Belarus Chamber of Industry and Commerce.

Mr. Murad said Jordan was willing to improve the volume of trade exchange with Belarus and cooperate in various economic fields.

"This is a good start to institutionalise private sectors in both countries and exchange information as well as enhance cooperation between us," he said.

Mr. Nkravich said Belarus was active in its economic cooperation with various countries despite having encountered some problems in its efforts to liberalise its economy.

"Therefore," he said, "we are searching for new markets and new friends... Our aim is to establish successful relations with Jordanian businessmen."

Mr. Nkravich said Belarus offers investors many incentives such as tax breaks and tax holidays in addition to allowing foreign investors to lease land for a term of 99 years.

Mr. Murad said: "Our economy is based on encouraging private initiative as well as private sector investment. We have prepared a set of legislation for the creation of a suitable investment climate for foreign and local investors. We also established the necessary infrastructure as well as industrial cities and free zones."

Under the protocol, both countries will coordinate in exchanging information about export capabilities, economic development as well as legislation in Jordan and Belarus.

They will also increase the number of small and medium-scale projects as

well as enhance cooperation in marketing services to local businessmen.

In another activity Tuesday, the Belarusian delegation met with Tourism and Antiquities Minister Salch Irshaidat and Transport Minister Naser Lawzi and discussed means of cooperation in both tourism and transport sectors.

Dr. Irshaidat said that Jordan intends to increase the volume of Belarusian tourism to Jordan as well as encourage tourism investment in both countries.

Mr. Lawzi expressed Jordan's willingness to enhance bilateral cooperation in the fields of civil aviation and transport.

## 'Jordan can become the Middle East base for Korean enterprises'

By Francesca Ciriaci  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan is eligible to become the Middle East production and marketing base for Korean middle and small-size enterprises, members of a visiting business delegation from Kumi City, the "Silicon Valley" of the Korean peninsula, said.

The Kingdom's geographic position, strategically located at the crossroad of Asia and Europe, and its political stability make it a privileged choice for South Korean entrepreneurs looking for new markets and joint-venture opportunities, said Kumi City Regional Economic Bureau Director Jin Sung Kim.

Kim stressed the potential for developing Jordanian-Korean economic cooperation and trade ties.

"While Korea can provide Jordanian firms with advanced know-how and effective quality control systems, Jordan can, on the other hand, offer low-cost labour," he said Tuesday.

The two countries have already reached remarkable levels of economic cooperation through joint investment projects under which Korean companies have transferred technology and know-how to their Jordanian counterparts for the production of home appliances.

Goldstar, Samsung and Daewoo stand out as successful examples of such cooperation.

Nonetheless, the visiting delegation discovered other

areas of possible cooperation.

On the second day of his Amman visit, Mr. Kim visited the Industrial City of Sahab and met with Jordan Industrial Estates Corporation Director General Assem Hindawi to discuss possible ways in which the two cities can cooperate in the near future for mutual benefits.

"We are just at a very initial stage," said Mr. Kim commenting on his meeting with Mr. Hindawi.

"This mission marks the beginning of a feasibility study to establish long-term business relations and initiate cooperation between the two cities," Mr. Kim said without unveiling further details.

The 15-member Korean delegation, including representatives from telecommunications, electronics and tex-

tile companies, visited Jakarta and Abu Dhabi before coming to Amman, in the third leg of an Asia and Middle East business mission.

The Jebel Ali Free Zone in Dubai is already a base for Korean electronic giants, but Sahab could be used as a production and distribution centre by middle and small-size Korean companies, Mr. Kim suggested.

Exports from Kumi City, which accommodates more than 1,000 enterprises and factories with nearly 80,000 employees, reached \$9.2 billion in 1995.

The "Silicon Valley" of south-eastern Asia, famous for its production of chips and electronics, will host the World Electronic Fair in 2002, when the Football World Cup will also take place in Korea.

## Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic press

### Car dealers criticise government for sudden announcement on customs

\*\* Car dealers have expressed their strong disappointment over the government announcement this week that customs tariffs on cars will be restructured from the beginning of next year. The dealers said they were dismayed by the sudden government decision and the decision measures within a short period of time. "Since the news were published, seven orders to buy cars from my company were cancelled pending the issuance of the new customs structure," one of the dealers said.

Hyundai staff member Hassan Olayyan said the government announcement has opened the door for rumours about the rates and amount of the reduction in customs tariffs. He pointed out that the timing of the announcement had many negative effects on car dealers as many purchase orders were cancelled causing a "market freeze" and big losses. Mr. Olayyan said the public has misinterpreted the announcement to be a reduction in customs although the news were clear and undisputed that there will not be any change on the final prices of cars.

The Hyundai dealer said the views of the economists, the experienced ones all those concerned in the matter should be taken into consideration. He stressed that the government should act gradually and not surprise the public with decisions as it often does.

George Haddad who works for Toyota dealership said the government should change its way of dealing with people by adopting a policy of frankness, clarity and openness. "The ground for such a move should have been prepared two years ago at least and not only two or three months in order to allow everybody to take their necessary precautions," he emphasised. Mr. Haddad said the government should "put us in the picture of its plans like other developed nations."

Dealer Imad Bustani said the announcement was not clear and "we have no idea about its background." However, he added, the news had a negative effect on the car market as sales dropped noticeably due to the hopes of many people that car prices will be lowered (Al-Dustour).

## EU official urges free trade for airlines

GENEVA (R) — A senior European Union (EU) official has called for world-wide limits on foreign ownership of national airlines to be dismantled and suggested the aviation industry should eventually come under global free trade rules.

Ludolf van Hasselt, principal administrator of the European Commission's Air Transport Policy Directorate, said unless the barriers were dropped, airlines would be left behind by the growing liberalisation of the world economy.

"Ownership and control restrictions are, in my view, the most important barrier against air carriers enlarging their scale and becoming global operators," he told executives from member companies of the world airlines body IATA.

"Complicated alliance agreements between carriers, which are unique to this industry because they are not necessary in other sectors, do not give the same benefits and operational flexibility as a free investment regime," Mr. Van Hasselt declared.

By focusing on removing the restrictions, which bars carriers in one country from taking a majority stake in companies in another country, the industry could set the ground for inclusion in a World Trade Organisation (WTO) services pact.

This pact "is probably the best possible long-term solution for our regulatory problems," he told the annual general meeting of IATA, the International Air Transport Association.

The current exclusion of

the industry from the mainstream of liberalisation of world trade in goods and services, he added, "will increasingly put aviation at a disadvantage."

Trade analysts in Geneva, headquarters of the WTO, said the EU official's remarks indicated that Brussels, and Transport Commissioner Neil Kinnock, may be looking to what would be a major departure in the global treatment of aviation services.

"Perhaps this is the beginning of a trend that could imply a rewriting of the rules of market access in this sector," said one analyst. "The implications are enormous."

But Mr. Van Hasselt told a news conference later he was not arguing for a quick incorporation of the airline industry into the WTO. "We are definitely not looking to bring it into the WTO yet," he said. "It may be possible in 10 to 15 years."

Launched nearly two years ago to replace the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), the WTO presides over a system of agreed rules creating equal conditions for trade in goods and services among all its currently 125 members.

But air traffic rights and services related to them were specifically excluded from coverage under the GATT, negotiated during the 1986-93 Uruguay Round of global trade talks that also led to creation of the WTO.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET										
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - JORDAN										
TELEPHONE: 607171 / 607179										
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR TUESDAY 17/12/1996										
PART 12 MONTHS	COMPANY'S NAME	P / E	QTY.	NO. OF TRANS.	NO. OF SHARES	VALUE TRADED JD	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE	
HIGH	LOW									
259,550	205,000	ARAB BANK	13.9	1,38	7	4140	1051550	255.00	253.50	1.50
3,800	2,900	BANK OF JORDAN	11.5	2.00	2	550	1758	3.10	3.20	.10
1,252	880	MID. EAST. INV. BK.	69.6	6.00	29	16700	17680	1.03	1.08	.03
2,700	2,120	INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK.	5.2	6.00	11	6000	14886	2.00	2.25	.05
5,250	4,250	THE JORDANIAN BANK	12.8	2.88	4	1800	7630	4.75	4.80	.05
3,040	2,440	JOR. SECUR. INV. BK.	20.0	2.00	13	3300	9048	2.63	2.76	.13
1,300	880	JOR. TR. BANK	5.8	7.22	13	10200	9996	.96	.97	.01
4,120	3,480	JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	17.7	0.00	30	9900	36453	3.69	3.68	.01
3,290	2,400	UNION BK. SAV. & INV.	9	0.00	7	500	735	1.46	1.48	.02
3,980	3,000	JOR. TR. FIN. BANK	19.5	0.00	1	150	1789	3.60	3.60	.00
2,450	1,000	PHILADEL. INV. BK.	9	0.00	3	1350	1789	1.32	1.33	.01
BANK SECTOR TOTALS										
		INDEX: 193.92	ICMG: -0.13	115	50509	152523				
2,840	1,830	JOR. FRENCH TRUST	5.7	9.90	1	100	202	2.01	2.02	.01
2,400	1,840	ARAB LIFE INSUR.	7.7	7.80	1	250	513	2.06	2.05	-
5,090	3,700	AL-TAJER AL-ARAB	12.4	4.22	1	150	728	4.85	4.85	-
INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS										
		INDEX: 117.53	ICMG: -0.05	3	500	1442				
4,830	1,450	JOR. ELECTRICITY PAR.	11.6	7.19	35	17022	28350	1.63	1.67	.04
6,050	4,200	ARAB INFL. BONDS	19.2	2.79	7	150	690	4.65	4.60	.05
1,500	1,080	JOR. SECUR. INVEST.	9.8	0.00	22	1500	16856	1.20	1.25	.05
1,050	.870	JOR. SECUR. INVEST.	30.0	4.14	2	400	713	.87	.87	.00
1,220	.580	JORDAN TR. TRAD.	34.9	0.00	6	1600	7085	.65	.68	.03
400	.470	JOR. SECUR. INVEST.	48.0	0.00	2	1050	9376	1.47	.08	.01
2,200	1,490	N.D. EAST TRAD.	70.7	0.00	18	7100	11609	1.56	1.48	.08
1,250	.960	SARCA EDUCATION	9	0.00	6	3100	3226	1.07	1.08	.01
2,360	3,690	UNIFIED CO.	11.6	4.52	143	90650	198600	2.14	2.21	.07
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS										
		INDEX: 113.07	ICMG: -0.72	236	136772	264276				
3,740	3,060	JOR. CEMENT FACT.	20.0	2.87	34	123675	432871	3.50	3.49	.01
3,550	2,710	JOR. PHOSPHATE MINES	35.5	0.00	10	30167	99550	3.25	3.30	.05
6,000	4,950	ARAB POTASH CO.	17.6	3.45	5	1400	8120	5.80	5.80	.00
10,120	8,710	JOR. PETROLEUM REFINERY	9.8	8.27	3	70	677	9.64	9.67	.03
1,590	1,150	WOOLLEN INDUSTRIES	56.8	0.00	17	5350	6920	1.27	1.28	.01
3,750	1,650	INDUSTRIAL COMM. AGR.	42.2	0.00	16	5100	16014	2.99	3.14	.15
1,800	3,040	ARAB FRUIT. IND.	20.6	5.33	36	11307	41865	3.66	3.75	.09
6,450	5,050	JOR. CERAMIC IND.	7.7	4.03	2	1200	7440	6.20	6.20	.00
2,400	1,570	JOR. PIPES MANUFACT.	9.1	7.21	3	850	1366	1.60	1.65	.05
3,310	3,900	GENERAL TRADING	6.4	12.00	1	400	10016	2.50	2.50	.00
1,600	3,100	ARAB ALUM. IND.	9.8	8.07	7	2800	10176	3.47	3.54	.07
.960	.450	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	9.7	0.00	58	81750	52863	.64	.65	.01
1,450	1,050	ARAB PAPER CO. TRD.	6.1	8.70	1	500	595	1.28	1.19	.09
1,740	.740	NATIONAL TRD.	10.6	8.00	72	129968	99376	.68	.71	.03
1,750	.930	INTERMED. TRD. CHEN.	9	0.00	51	25900	30588	1.16	1.13	.03
1,150	.780	JOR. ROPEMAN TRD.	9	0.00	17	10050	9216	.88	.92	.04
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS										
		INDEX: 117.12	ICMG: -0.55	658	677026	1131829				
GRAND TOTAL										
		INDEX: 153.54	ICMG: -0.19	1012	869368	2549699				
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR TUESDAY 17/12/1996										
.790	.440	CENTRAL GEN. STORAGE	22.1	0.00	9	9950	3273	.62	.51	.03
.800	.510	JOR. TRADE FAC.	15.2	0.00	18	16450	9357	.55	.51	.02
N .980	.460	NATL. COMMER. CENTERS	E	0.00	6	4200	1910	.46	.45	.01
N .930	.700	JORDAN INV. SOC.	E	0.00	12	4300	8910	.83	.74	.02
N .1130	.370	ARAB FIN. INVEST.	E	0.00	41	84750	40260	.46	.48	.02
N .950	.690	AL-DAMRIAN TR.	15.8	0.00	2	500	225	.69	.70	.01
N .860	.510	ARAB FOOD & MED.	E	0.00	14	2800	1873	.65	.67	.02
N .1760	.330	NATL. CIGARETTE	E	0.00	4	1500	2175	1.44	1.45	.01
.700	.450	ARAB TRVL. TR. SERV.	E	0.00	3	9250	2468	.47	.47	.00
N .900	.520	NATL. TEXTILE	E	0.00	12	300	2674	.69	.70	.01
N .1100	.400	NATL. MOLT. ENG. MANCO	E	0.00	30	42400	21543	.49	.51	.02
.790	.430	KARKAR STEEL & ROLLS	E	0.00	6	1750	942	.51	.54	.03
N .1080	.750	JORDAN TR. TRAD.	E	0.00	3	1660	715	.76	.78	.02
N .1330	1.020	UNION TOBACCO TR.	E	0.00	6	1553	1283	1.05	1.07	.02
.840	.570	YAFI FISH. 65%	E	0.00	9	8950	1807	.63	.61	.02
N .830	.390	TRD. SECUR. INVEST.	27.1	0.00	19	8900	21537	.73	.74	.01
N .1430	.760	YAFI. CERAMIC	E	0.00	6	17350	14230	.81	.82	.01
.630	.360	1. CENTRAL MANUF.	E	0.00	6	1400	1069	.44	.46	.02
N .1500	.580	ARAB TR. BANK	E	0.00	6	9070	1873	.65	.67	.02
N .1500	.330	MID. EAST. COMPLEX	7.9	0.00	29	38000	25601	.67	.67	.00
GRAND TOTAL										
		242	343001	172851						
N = Listed during the past 12 months										
P / E ratio is 100 or more										
+ = Negative P/E										
E = Earnings is zero or N/A for the most recent year										



## Milwaukee Bucks pound Boston Celtics

BOSTON (R) — Vin Baker had 28 points and 11 rebounds and triggered a key third-quarter burst as the Milwaukee Bucks pounded the Boston Celtics, 107-91 for the third time this season on Monday.

Glenn Robinson added 19 points, nine rebounds and seven assists for the Bucks, who held a 58-36 rebounding advantage and gave coach Chris Ford a win in his return to Boston. Ford coached the Celtics for five years before Milwaukee.

"We've got a good team that is playing well," Ford said. "Vin and Glenn Robinson were able to post up and get easy scoring opportunities. We have a good, unselfish team that

makes the extra pass." Allen scored 16 points and Andrew Lang added 12.

In Toronto, Grant Hill had 27 points and 12 rebounds and Joe Dumars added 21 points as the Detroit Pistons handed the Toronto Raptors their fourth straight loss, 98-92. Otis Thorpe had 14 points and 11 rebounds for Detroit, which held Toronto, losers of six of their last eight games, scoreless for the final four minutes. The Pistons have won seven of their last eight games.

"That team is tough to play against," said Detroit coach Doug Collins. "They scramble the floor, they're very athletic. They do a good job of trapping and they basically don't let you

run your offence.

In Sacramento, Chris Webber continued his strong play with 24 points and 14 rebounds, leading the Washington Bullets to a 97-89 victory over the short-handed Sacramento Kings.

Webber is averaging 23.1 points and 11.5 rebounds over his last six games for Washington.

Juwan Howard added 21 points and grabbed eight rebounds while Rod Strickland had 17 points and eight assists for the Bullets.

Mitch Richmond led Sacramento with 28 points.

In Los Angeles, Brent Barry sank a tying three-pointer with one second left

in regulation and Terry Dehere scored four straight points in overtime to lead the Los Angeles Clippers to a 122-121 victory over the Phoenix Suns at the Pond in Anaheim.

Kevin Johnson made two free throws with three seconds left in the fourth quarter to give the Suns a 113-110 lead. After a timeout, Barry took the inbound pass, dribbled behind the three-point line in the right corner and sent the game into overtime.

Malik Sealy scored 28 points before fouling out in overtime for the Clippers.

Manning scored 24 points and John Williams and Michael Finley contributed 17 apiece for the Suns.

## Europe's swimming queen Voelker set for world fame

ROSTOCK, Germany (R) — German swimmer Sandra Voelker, fresh from establishing herself as queen at the European sprints and short-course championships last weekend, is ready to take on the world.

"Sandra is now the best in Europe and has the potential to do the same at the world level," said Voelker's trainer Dirk Lange. "Sandra can rewrite swimming history. Most swimmers are specialists but Sandra is at the top in three disciplines."

Voelker took three individual golds in 50 and 100 metres freestyle and 50 metres butterfly and two team golds in the 4x50 freestyle and medley relays, notching up two European records in the two freestyle events and a world best time with her team mates in the 4x50 medley.

The 22-year-old, who now holds 15 European short-course titles, was narrowly pipped to the post in the 50 and 100 metres butterfly by Johanna Sjöberg of Sweden, who set new European records in both events.

Voelker, who sprung to prominence when she took three medals at this summer's Atlanta Olympics, netted 11,250 marks (\$8,000) for her record-breaking run. "The shops may be pleased because I haven't bought any Christmas presents yet," she said.

Voelker is due to go to Perth, Australia in January to train for April's world short course championships in Gothenburg. "I chose the place to get used to it ahead of the world long course competition to be held there in early 1998," she said.

The German press has for long overlooked Voelker in favour of her younger team mate Franziska Van Almsick, a national heroine.

But after her performance at the weekend, when she snatched two European and one German record from the absent Van Almsick, Voelker made all the headlines.

"Super Sandra swims out of Franziska's shadow," read the headline in the Sunday Bild newspaper.

Hundreds of Voelker fans at the championships would agree. At an autograph hour, they flocked to meet the swimmer and draped the pool side with colourful banners, wishing their heroine good luck.

But Voelker is not as hungry for media attention as Van Almsick. "I don't want to be a star or a diva. Being famous in my home town of Hamburg is enough," she said. "I just want to swim as well as I can."

Voelker's trainer Lange said the success of former West Germans like Voelker and Anja Buschschulte, who took her first European title here, meant that balance was changing.

"Great swimmers are not coming out of the new German states like they used to," Lange said.

Lange said Voelker had the potential to be another Christine Otto, the East German who took six gold medals at the 1988 Seoul Olympics.

He attributes her success to revolutionary training methods, shunned by others in the German team.

"We focus on speed, power and technique and less so on stamina," said Lange, who is one of a team of five trainers dedicated to the improvement of the swimmer.

Voelker swims around five or six kilometres a day, half that of most others, but also does weight training and dry land sprinting, running 100 metres in just 12.20 seconds.

Lange admitted that her recent improvement had been substantially helped by money from sponsorship deals and the German swimming federation.

"Soon Sandra will become one of the best paid amateur athletes in Germany. Of course it's always easier for women and she has such a nice smile," he said.

## Perugia coach faces sack, again

PERUGIA, Italy (R) — The owner of Serie A side Perugia threatened again on Monday to dismiss coach Giovanni Galeone after a 2-1 home defeat to Lazio in the Italian league.

"What you have to consider is that the relationship between the club and its coach is not what it used to be," owner Luciano Gaucci told reporters.

"It used to be precarious, now it's almost non-existent."

Perugia moved up from Serie B this season but Gaucci and Galeone have been at daggers drawn for months and it is by no means the first time that the coach has been menaced with the sack.

Sunday's defeat left the club 13th and Gaucci was jeered by fans as he left the ground. He said he was thinking of eventually selling the club. "I've been treated with unprecedented ingratitude," he said. "After all I've done it's not right that I need a police escort to leave the stadium."

Gaucci said the dismissal of Galeone "could be imminent" but declined to say who might replace him.



AUSTRIAN THOMAS SYKORA IN ACTION DURING SLALOM: Austrian Thomas Sykora, leader of the Slalom World Cup, in action during the men's World Cup Alpine skiing slalom first leg in Madonna di Campiglio Tuesday. Sykora took the third time with 46.47 (Reuters photo)

## Agassi says he will play in 1st round of the Davis Cup in February

NEW YORK (R) — Andre Agassi, looking to jumpstart his tennis game after a disappointing year, said on Monday he will play in the first-round of the Davis Cup set for Brazil in February.

"It's intense competition, and starting the year that way will be perfect and a great step in the right direction to step up my intensity level," said Agassi, a member of the championship 1990 and '92 Davis Cup squads.

The Feb. 7-9 match, scheduled for Sao Paulo, will be his first Davis Cup match since injuring his shoulder in a 1995 semifinal match against Sweden.

The U.S. Davis Cup team has not officially been named by captain Tom Gullikson, and Agassi said

he was not sure whether he jumped the gun in announcing that he would play.

World number one Pete Sampras already has announced that he will not play in the first round of the Davis Cup.

"This year was a struggle for me and when the last Grand Slam was over it killed all the incentive to put my game together," Agassi said of his 2-4 won-lost match record that followed his loss to Michael Chang in the U.S. Open semifinals.

For the first time in three years, Agassi did not win a Grand Slam crown, and for only the second time since 1990 he didn't reach a final of a major. Agassi lost in the first round of Wimbledon and the second round at the French Open.

Only winning the Olympic gold medal at the Atlanta Games managed to make something of this season, said Agassi in a telephone call Monday from his Las Vegas home to promote his final appearance at an exhibition match at Madison Square Garden.

"You look at a gold medal. It's career making to win that," said Agassi. "Outside of that it wasn't a good year, but with that it was a great year."

Agassi said he took a hard look at his game after three first-round losses — the Paris Indoor, the ATP Championships and the Grand Slam Cup — in the last six weeks.

"Assessing my game at that point and trying to be objective, I decided you had

to cut your losses at some point and stop chasing my game week after week," Agassi said of his decision to rest and train next month instead of playing in the Australian Open, the year's first Grand Slam.

"No question it is tough to miss the Australian Open," Agassi said of the Grand Slam that he won in 1995 and where he reached the semifinals this year.

"I just wanted to take some time to train and to get back to where I'm feeling fast and fit," said the 26-year-old Agassi, the 1992 Wimbledon champion and 1994 U.S. Open winner.

"I'm looking forward to this time off to get pumped up."

## Sydney Games chief toughened by Rugby Super League war

SYDNEY (AFP) — Sydney Olympics chiefs have recruited the former chief executive of the Australian Rugby League (ARL) who led a failed campaign to stop Rupert Murdoch's Rugby Super League.

But John Quayle, who quit the ARL last month, said he would use his experience of fighting the super league to make sure the 2000 Olympics go ahead smoothly.

He was one of three senior appointments announced Tuesday by Olympics Minister Michael Knight to the organisation of the Sydney Organising Committee for the Olympic Games

(SOCOG). Quayle was appointed general manager of venue management.

Other appointments were Sandy Hollway as director of corporate services, responsible for staff, administration, finance and technology, and Jim Sloman, director of games operations, who will be responsible for sports, venue management and games services. Quayle will report to Sloman.

Asked if the recent battles with super league would help him for the future, Quayle told a press conference: "Yes, I do. I think the events of my 13 years at the

league, but certainly the last two, have toughened me for anything that might be delivered.

Quayle denied News Limited's recent federal court victory was the reason for his resignation, although he admitted frustration at the decision of three appeal judges to overturn Justice James Burchett's original super league ban.

But after being constantly viewed by super league as an impediment to peace, Quayle said he hoped his decision to quit would help lead to a compromise between the code's warring parties before next season's two rival competitions.

## UEFA to take no action against Porto defender Costa

GENEVA (R) — UEFA said on Tuesday it believed George Weah's attack on Jorge Costa could have been provoked by racist taunts but would not pursue action against the Porto defender because of a lack of evidence.

AC Milan striker Weah was given a six-match suspension on Monday for head-butting Costa in the players' tunnel after last month's champions' league match with Porto.

Costa suffered a broken nose. He underwent surgery later and was ruled out of action for three weeks but will not miss any games due to suspension despite claims that he provoked the attack with racist slurs.

"We cannot take action because there was no proof to warrant suspending Costa," said Rene Eberle, the UEFA head of competitions and discipline committee secretary.

He added: "It was quite clear Weah must have been provoked. What he did could even be seen as understandable but there was no proof Costa made

any such remarks.

"Weah did break Costa's nose just 15 minutes after he had committed a serious foul on him — this we know. But for alleged racist remarks we have no neutral witnesses. There is no confirmation from television, no confirmation from the UEFA observer and no confirmation from officials."

Weah, last year's world, European and African player of the year, has admitted attacking the Portuguese defender but said he was provoked by racist remarks.

After conducting a special investigation into the incident, UEFA said it could see no other reason for the assault and pointed to the Liberian's exemplary record.

In the past five years Weah has been shown only three yellow cards. He has won the FIFA Fair Play Award and has long held a reputation as one of the sport's gentlemen and one of its finest players.

It was that reputation combined with the possibility that the attack was racially motivated that

persuaded UEFA not to impose more severe sanctions.

"Obviously there were mitigating circumstances, that's why the suspension was just six matches," said Eberle. "I can tell you, under different circumstances the suspension would have been much more severe."

"We had to make allowances for mitigating circumstances."

"There must have been a reason for the attack, it is not his reputation for such behaviour."

"To Weah's credit the judges assumed he was provoked but no-one could deny he committed the aggression."

Weah, who has until Thursday to lodge an appeal, has already missed one match — last week's champions' league game in which AC Milan went out of the European Cup after a shock home defeat to Rosenborg Trondheim of Norway.

He will have to sit out the next five matches of UEFA competition for which his team qualifies.

## Hagi threatens to quit international side

BUCHAREST (R) — Romania captain Gheorghe Hagi threatened on Tuesday to quit the national side unless the Romanian Soccer Federation's press officer was dismissed. Hagi said federation spokesman Sorin Samari had fabricated an interview with him published in the popular Bucharest daily, Zina, at the weekend.

"I am not going to turn up for the national team because Samari published an interview which never took place," Hagi said. "Everything he had me saying was made up."

Quoted Hagi as saying his former club Steaua Bucharest was badly managed and were driving top players out of the country by paying poor salaries. Steaua have been national champions for four successive seasons and lead the way again this season.

**GOREN BRIDGE**

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNIA HIRSCH  
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**THERE'S ALWAYS HOPE**

Both vulnerable. South deals.

<p><b>NORTH</b></p> <p>♠ 10 7 4 2</p> <p>♥ K J 6 5 2</p> <p>♦ K 8</p> <p>♣ K 7</p>	<p><b>EAST</b></p> <p>♠ A J 9 8 6 5</p> <p>♥ Q 9 8</p> <p>♦ 10 7 4</p> <p>♣ A 5</p>
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

**WEST**

♠ A K

♥ J 9 8 5 3

♦ 10 8 6 4 3 2

♣ A Q

**SOUTH**

♠ Q 3

♥ A Q 10 7 3

♦ A Q 2

♣ A Q J

The bidding:

<p><b>SOUTH</b></p> <p>17</p> <p>07</p>	<p><b>WEST</b></p> <p>Pass</p> <p>Pass</p> <p>Pass</p>	<p><b>NORTH</b></p> <p>Pass</p> <p>Pass</p> <p>Pass</p>	<p><b>EAST</b></p> <p>Pass</p> <p>Pass</p> <p>Pass</p>
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Opening lead: Four of ♠

Eager to get on to the next hand, rubber-bridge players will often hand over with when the contract is 'clearly hopeless'. That can be a very expensive habit, as this hand proves.

Most modern players would have no problem opening the South hand with two no trump despite the fact that the spade suit is only partially stopped. They require secure stoppers only in three suits, not all four

as in days gone by. That might have led to the same contract, which was reached quickly when North stretched a little to make a forcing jump move in hearts.

After winning the opening lead with dummy's king of clubs, declarer drew trumps, gazed dejectedly at the closed hand and said dummy, then conceded two spade tricks. The defenders entered 100 points above the line.

Certainly, declarer rated to lose two spade tricks but, in fact, once a club was led the slam cannot be defeated as the cards lie. Declarer simply drew trumps, cashed out the minor-suit winners and then exits with a low spade. Since West holds a singleton king of spades, the defender must win (if East over-takes, declarer's queen of spades becomes a trick), and return a minor suit. That enables declarer to ruff on the table and discard the queen of spades, leaving the losers to one in spades.

Were the defenders correct in accepting declarer's concession? Yes, because there is no way of determining what declarer was going to do. Perhaps South would have cashed all the trumps, or led a spade before stripping the hand.

The moral of this story: Never raise the white flag until the battle is truly lost!

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<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Nabil &amp; Nisham's Theatre TEL: 625155</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">The theatre is closed from Dec. 15, 1996 until the start of the Holy Month of Ramadan in order to prepare for a new play entitled</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>"Al Aman Ya Ho"</b></p>			



# Sports

## Seles practises with broken finger in splint

MELBOURNE, Australia (AFP) — Monica Seles was practising at her Florida home with her fractured finger in a splint in a bid to be right for next month's Grand Slam tournament here, Australia Open Director Paul McNamee said Tuesday.

"She wants to keep hitting balls and stay fit," he said of the four-times Australian Open champion and one of the tournament's box-office drawcards.

"She's shown amazing commitment and after all the trouble with her shoulder it's just phenomenal."

Last month, Seles' recurring shoulder injury forced her to withdraw midway through the WTA championships in New York.

Two weeks ago she broke her finger at an exhibition tournament and it was feared it could prevent her from defending her open title next month at Melbourne Park.

the renamed Flinders Park.

"If she makes it to centre court on Jan. 13, it'll be nothing short of amazing," McNamee said.

Meanwhile, Mary Pierce, after a patchy year in the wake of her split from high-profile American coach Nick Bolleteri, confirmed Tuesday she would play in the Sydney International at White City next month.

The 21-year-old French player made a poor start to the year, splitting with Bolleteri after he complained she was overweight and her tennis was suffering because of it.

Her world ranking slipped from No. 5 to No. 20 as a knee injury kept her out of the U.S. Open and affected her game through much of the year.

Pierce was eliminated early from the other three Grand Slams, including the Australian Open where she

was defending champion.

She last played tournament tennis in the Canadian Open in August. She said Tuesday she was looking forward to the Sydney International and hoped it would be good preparation for her Australian Open quest. The 1995 Australian Open was her first Grand Slam title.

"I'm looking forward to playing at White City," Pierce said in a statement. "I stopped in at the tournament in 1996 and thought the setting and atmosphere was great."

Pierce will be one of 14 of tennis's top 20 women who will contest the Sydney International singles title.

Others include three of the event's past champs Seles, Jennifer Capriati and Natascha Zvereva and two former finalists, Arantxa Sanchez Vicario and Lindsay Davenport.

## Iran threatens Saudi favourites as the UAE hosts face Kuwait

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Ever-improving Iran threaten to make a mockery of Saudi Arabia's billing as Asian Cup favourites when the two clash here in Wednesday's semi-finals.

The Iranians stunned the Saudis 3-0 in a group match and their 6-2 demolition of South Korea in the quarter-finals on Monday has made them the most dangerous team in the competition.

It is 20 years since Iran last won the Asian Cup. Shortly afterwards the country, wracked by their war with Iraq, went into decline but Iranian coach Mohammad Mayili Kohan is convinced his side is ready to relive the glory years when Iran won three straight Asian Cups.

"The old glimmer is about to return," vows Kohan.

And if anyone doubts him, simply ask the Koreans who suffered their worst defeat in recent history.

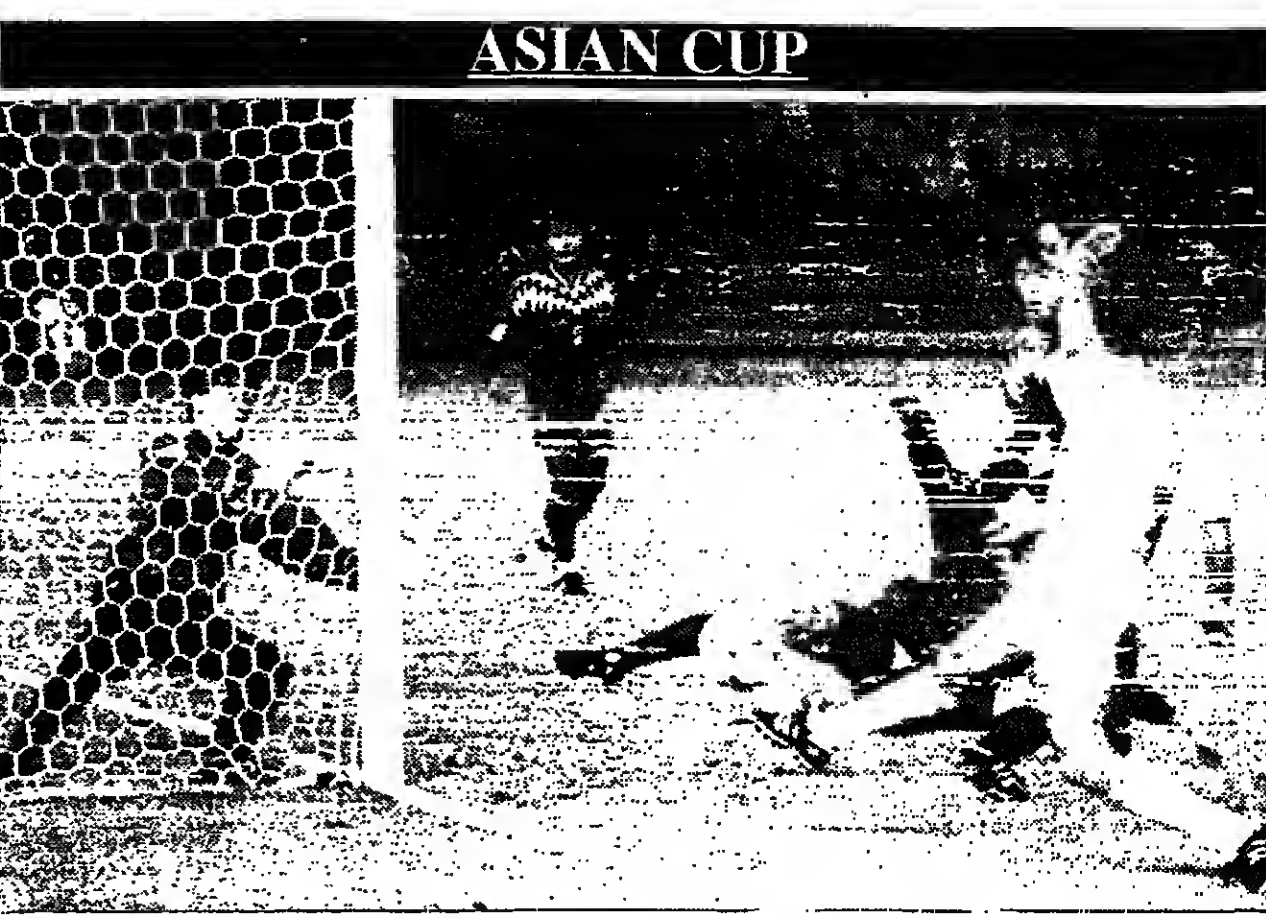
Iran's second half performance, led by striker Ali Daei, against the country with the best World Cup history in Asia, was breathtaking.

And the Saudi defence, which in the opening 20 minutes of their quarter-final meeting China showed more holes than a colander, will do well to contain Daei.

Daei scored 12 goals in Iran's march to the finals here and his four goals against Korea, have made him the most lethal finisher in the tournament.

The 27-year-old and mid-fielder Khodadad Azizi have proved a devastating match-winning duo.

But while Iran have continued to grow in stature as the tournament reaches its cli-



Saudi Arabia forward Sami Al Jaber (right) scores his third goal as the Chinese goalkeeper tries to catch the ball during their quarter-final match Monday (AFP photo)

## Wembley to be site of Britain's national stadium

LONDON (R) — Britain's Sports Council on Tuesday named Wembley as the site of the country's new national sports stadium.

Wembley, the north London venue which has been the home of English soccer since the 1920s, was chosen in preference to Manchester, the northern English city that will host the Commonwealth Games in 2002.

Some £100 million (\$166 million) in national lottery funds are expected to be provided to help pay for the complete redevelopment of Wembley Stadium.

Architect Sir Norman

Foster has unveiled plans for an 80,000-seater stadium. In his design Wembley's famous Twin Towers would be repositioned to form a new gateway to the stadium area. However a competition will be held to choose the final design for the new stadium.

The English Football Association hopes that the new stadium will boost its

chances of staging the World Cup in 2006.

Wembley and Manchester were short-listed from five initial bidders last year. But Wembley emerged as the clear favourite after soccer, athletics and rugby league all threw their weight behind its bid two months ago.

max. Saudi Arabia continued to be dogged by internal squabbles.

Quarter-final hero Youssef Al Thunayan is upset he has not been a regular starter. Saudi's Portuguese coach Eduardo Vingada has preferred to have Khalid Al Muwallid and Khalid Al Timavi run the midfield.

But the 33-year-old Al Thunayan, who instilled Saudi's come from behind win over China when he was called on in the 29th minute,

should be assured of starting in the showdown against Iran.

But for Vingada the most worrying problem is the irregular form of Al Muwallid.

Capable of winning a match on his own, the 25-year-old has only showed glimpses of his brilliance during the finals.

Vingada needs him to deliver in the semifinals. If not Saudi Arabia, looking for their third Asian Cup title, could join pretournament favourites Japan and Korea as also-runs.

In the second semifinal

hosts United Arab Emirates face a potentially explosive face-off with Kuwait.

In a group match the UAE came back from two goals down to win 3-2 but Kuwait lodged an official protest after the match, accusing the hosts of a "dirty tricks" campaign to snatch victory.

Shortly after UAE went into the lead the ballboys surrounding the pitch to help keep play moving vanished and for the final 20 minutes a helicopter began hovering over the stadium.

Kuwait claimed the helicopter unsettled their players.

UAE's ride to the semi-finals has been far from

impressive.

Kuwait have shown slightly better form but the UAE's home advantage could prove crucial.

Behind the semi-final scenes is a private battle of the coaches.

Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the UAE all have expensive foreign imports. Iran, who have been trying for over a year to import a European coach, may give thanks come Sunday's final that they have so far failed.

It would also give a major boost to all Asian coaches if Iran leave here as Asian Cup champions.

## Car dealer buys all Asian Cup match tickets

ABU DHABI (R) — A car dealing company in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has bought all the tickets for the semifinals and final of the Asian Cup to give them away to the public, a local newspaper reported on Tuesday.

Al Itihad daily said Al Masood Car Dealers paid one million UAE dirhams (\$280,000) for the tickets and would pay a

further 100,000 dirhams (\$28,000) in prizes during the matches.

Al Itihad quoted the vice-president of the company, Tarek Masood, as saying that the tickets would be given away at Al Masood's showrooms. Attendances have been low at the Asian Cup and even matches involving the hosts have failed to fill Abu Dhabi's 60,000-seat stadium.

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Both these positions require proven experience in market and financial analysis as well as project management and a good understanding of the principles of business. Excellent management, interpersonal and presentation skills will also be necessary, together with good regional knowledge and fluency in both English and Arabic.

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## Lebanon pledges to ensure compliance with ceasefire

BEIRUT (AP) — Lebanon has pledged to ensure compliance with a U.S.-brokered ceasefire after a rocket attack on Israel, truce monitors in southern Lebanon said Tuesday.

The five-nation monitoring group considers last Friday's rocket attack on Israel a violation of the April 26 understanding. But it did not pin the blame specifically on the Lebanese government or any guerrilla faction operating in the country.

The representatives from the United States, France, Syria, Israel and Lebanon met for 12 hours Monday at a U.N. peacekeeping force headquarters in the Lebanese border town of Naqoura to discuss Israel's complaint about the attack.

In a statement released in Beirut Tuesday, the group said it accepted that at least one Katyusha rocket was fired into Israel.

"This act ran counter to the April 26 understanding... The government of Lebanon will do its utmost to ensure compliance with the understanding," the statement said.

The group also called "on all those responsible to take appropriate measures to ensure that such acts do not recur."

The April understanding halted a 16-day Israeli bombing blitz against Lebanese Hizbollah guerrillas in southern Lebanon.

At least 200 people, most of them Lebanese civilians, were killed in the bombardment.

The agreement prohibits attacks against civilians but does not preclude attacks on military targets provided they are not launched from civilian areas.

The truce monitors had previously blamed Israel for causing injury to civilians, but did not accuse it of violating the agreement.

Israel's announcement Friday that Katyusha rockets were fired across the border from south Lebanon had been denied by the Lebanese government, the Iranian-backed Lebanese Hizbollah and Palestinian guerrilla factions.

Although Lebanon has supported Hizbollah attacks against the Israelis occupying a border zone in south Lebanon, the government has pressured the militant group not to fire rockets into northern Israel.

There had been no attacks on Israeli territory for the first eight months of the ceasefire. No group claimed responsibility for the Friday attack, apparently not only fearing Israeli retaliation but also a possible crack-down by the Lebanese government.

## Saudi Arabia close to revealing Khobar bomb probe — minister

DUBAI (Agencies) — Saudi Arabia is close to revealing the results of its investigation into the bombing of a military housing complex which killed 19 U.S. airmen, Saudi Interior Minister Prince Nayef was on Tuesday quoted as saying.

Prince Nayef, in comments to the Saudi-owned Al Sharq Al Awsat newspaper, described recent U.S. media reports on the case as untrue and unreliable.

"Announcing the results of our investigation will not be delayed very much, but as is our habit we do not hasten announcing the results of investigations until we are sure of all the particulars and details," he said.

Asked about U.S. media reports on the investigation, the minister said in the first such detailed comments on the June 25 bombing at Khobar, eastern Saudi Arabia:

"For the information to be true and reliable it has to come from the main concerned sources. As long as the sources of information and talked about reports on the bombing in Khobar are not Saudi then this complete-

ly denies its truth and hence its reliability."

"Only Saudi authorities and its security apparatus know the truth about this bombing in all its details," he added.

Prince Nayef made no mention of Iran — alleged by U.S. media to be linked to the bombing — but said: "The whole truth without colouring is our aim and we do not want to deal with half-truths or with accusations of others, or provocations or using incidents to settle accounts (with other countries)."

Saudi Arabia and its regional Arab allies have often tense relations with their non-Arab neighbour across the Gulf. They have accused the Iran of interfering in their internal affairs and voiced concern over its arms build-up.

Iran has denied the charges.

The Washington post reported recently that Saudi Arabia had given Washington detailed data to support the Saudis' belief that the bombing was carried out by Shiite Muslims trained in Lebanon and

backed by Iran.

The Los Angeles Times said Washington was making contingency plans for possible punitive strikes, including military strikes, against Iran if it was proven to be behind the bomb attack.

Iran has denied it was involved and its spiritual leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said on Saturday the media allegations were aimed at justifying U.S. military action against Iran.

Prince Nayef denied U.S. media reports that Saudi Arabia had shown Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) director Louis Freeh taped confessions of people arrested over the bombing.

"We have never given confessions by accused (people) or videotapes to any side because what happened in Khobar is a Saudi matter," he said.

U.S. President Bill Clinton said on Friday he had not reached a conclusion on responsibility.

The U.S. Defence Department said last week it was "premature" to talk about retaliation against Iran for the bombing until the FBI concludes its probe.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, on Tuesday addresses Tunisian Prime Minister Hamed Al Karoui and the delegation accompanying him during a visit to Um Qais (Petra photo)

## Jordan stresses need for inter-Arab cooperation to retain regional identity

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Tuesday stressed the importance of inter-Arab cooperation in preserving the identity of this region.

The Crown Prince noted the importance of the Middle East and North African economic conferences held in Casablanca, Amman and Cairo, saying that they provided an opportunity for discussing scopes of regional cooperation.

Prince Hassan was speaking during a meeting with Tunisian Prime Minister Hamed Al Karoui, who visited Um Qais, along with Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabarti. The Crown Prince called for enhancing cooperation between Jordan and Tunisia in the investment field.

Prince Hassan said Jordan offers educational and health services to the refugees, and

noted the importance of international financial support in this respect.

Prince Hassan emphasised the importance of economic and social cohesion, saying that it is enshrined in the Jordanian and Arab principles. He referred to difficulties facing Jordan, including scarcity of water sources and failure to find a comprehensive solution to regional problems.

Prince Hassan said water poses a challenge to the region in the times ahead.

The Crown Prince underlined Jordan's central position and its role in maintaining regional security and stability, which are essential for any investment projects.

The meeting was attended by the ministers of water and irrigation, and industry and trade, in addition to senior civil and military officials.

Earlier in the day, the speakers of the Upper and

Lower Houses of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi and Sa'd Hayel Srour, received Mr. Karoui in two separate meetings and briefed him on Jordan's democratic march and its role in shaping the present and future of Jordan.

Mr. Srour reviewed the role of parliamentary opposition in enriching and enhancing parliamentary dialogue.

Dr. Karoui reviewed the parliamentary and political march in Tunisia, and explained the Tunisian concept of democracy and human rights. He noted that both the Jordanian and Tunisian democratic marches focus on human resources development.

He also visited the Islamic Cultural Centre at King Abdullah mosque in Abdali area, where he was received by Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Salam Al Abhadi and senior ministry officials.

## Expert sees urgent need for reform in teacher education

By Anca de Maio  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Teacher education and school reform, the leading themes of the International Council on Education for Teaching (ICET) world assembly taking place this week in Amman, represent two topics of universal importance and specific relevance for the Jordanian education.

A participant in the ICET conference, Dr. Ahmad Al Khatib, majored in educational administration and teacher education, is the supervisor of 60 masters' dissertations at Yarmouk University on reform planning and teacher education, including a study about the efficiency of the teacher education programme of the 10-year reform plan adopted at the 1987 National Conference of Education.

The teacher education programme stipulated the upgrading of the Ministry of Education teachers not holding a bachelor's degree and a general diploma in education. The reality is that 50 per cent of the 60,000 teachers of the

Kingdom lack the required academic preparation, and 35 per cent of them have just a bachelor's degree, stated Dr. Khatib.

Taking into account the Education Law No. 27 (1994) stipulating that a bachelor's degree and a general diploma are prerequisites for obtaining a teaching permit from the Ministry of Education, as much as 85 per cent of the teaching community in Jordan are not legally entitled to be teachers, he added.

The teacher education programme of the 10-year reform plan was aimed at upgrading "associate holders" (i.e. with two years of post Tawjihi education) to bachelor's degree and to professionalising those who lacked the one-year pedagogical and methodological training of a college of education.

According to a very recent research evaluating the 10-year reforming plan, only 10 per cent out of the above-mentioned 50 per cent have been upgraded. Only 300 or less of the planned 300,000 teachers

have been enrolled in the Jordan, Yarmouk and Mu'ta Universities and only a few hundreds of the 35 per cent group have been trained in colleges of education, Dr. Khatib said.

The lack of proper planning and coordination between the Ministry of Education and universities as well as the heavy bureaucracy of both the Ministry of Education and the universities have slowed down the completion of the programme. The colleges of education could have devised new specific in-service strategies to replace the application of pre-service methods to in-service teachers, he pointed out.

The conclusion drawn by Dr. Khatib was that the efficiency of the 10-year plan regarding teacher training is estimated to be only 10 per cent, a quota that a long-range plan should have avoided by doing periodical evaluations of its achievements. A real innovative strategic plan is required in order to overcome the critical moment Jordanian teacher education is currently undergoing, he said.

## Hamas demands cancellation of death sentences

CAIRO (Agencies) — The Palestinian Islamic resistance movement Hamas on Tuesday urged President Yasser Arafat to overturn a decision sentencing to death two policemen belonging to the radical group.

"We call on the (Palestinian National) Authority of Arafat to reconsider its unfair decision," said a statement by Hamas received in Cairo.

"We warn against carrying out these sentences, which are a serious indication of a destructive policy for the Palestinian people," the statement said.

On Sunday a Palestinian military court sentenced to death Hamas militants Khalil Hamed Al Sakani, 24, and Hatem Abu Wadi, 21, from Jabalya in the Gaza Strip.

They were found guilty of killing policeman Akram Ahmad last year in order to steal his gun.

Their lawyer said they had 15 days to appeal the sentence.

Hamas also criticised the PNA for failing to "sentence to death those involved in the death by torture of dozens (of Palestinians) in the prisons of the Palestinian National Authority."

The death penalty has never been carried out by the PNA since its self-rule status was set up in 1994, although the courts have handed down the death sentence on several occasions.

However, this was the first time that Hamas activists have received the death penalty.

New political bureau chief

Hamas has named a successor to its political bureau chief, Dr. Musa Mohammad Abu Marzouk, who is fighting extradition from the United States on terrorism charges, a Hamas spokesman said Tuesday.

Spokesman Ibrahim Ghosheh said that Mr. Abu Marzouk's deputy, Khalid Mishaal, was named as replacement and assumed his post earlier this month in Damascus.

"Hamas could not continue its political activities while Mr. Abu Marzouk is in detention," Mr. Ghosheh told the Associated Press in Amman.

"Therefore, in consultations with political bureau members, Hamas decided to elect Mr. Mishaal as successor."

He said Mishaal, 35, who holds a university degree in physics, was Mr. Abu Marzouk's deputy for several years and will be responsible for formulating Hamas' political strategies.

(Continued on page 7)

## 6 Red Cross delegates killed in Chechnya

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Six Western staff members of the International Committee of the Red Cross were killed in Russia's Chechnya Tuesday, in the worst incident involving foreign aid workers in the turbulent Caucasus region.

A spokeswoman for the agency based in Moscow said the six workers had been killed in the village of Novye Atagi, some 17 kilometres to the southwest of the capital Grozny.

Geneva-based spokesman Tony Burgener said the Red Cross had frozen all work in the separatist region with immediate effect.

He said the six staffers were murdered in their sleep at their home inside a Red Cross hospital compound in the village.

"We are strongly condemning this attack, which is a serious violation of international humanitarian law. The hospital was clearly marked with Red Cross signs all over it," Mr. Burgener said.

"It was an attack on their residence when they were sleeping at four a.m. This morning. It was an assassination."

An ICRC statement issued in Geneva said it was "in shock."

It said five of the killed delegates had been seconded to the ICRC by national Red Cross societies. It identified the five as Hans Elkerbout from the Netherlands, Ingeborg Foss from Norway, Nancy Malloy from Canada, Gunhild Myklebust of Norway and Sheryl Thayer

from New Land. The sixth, Fernanda Calado, a Spanish nurse, was under contract to the ICRC, the statement said.

"The ICRC expresses its deepest sympathy to the families of the deceased, who gave their lives to help the victims of the Chechen conflict, and to the Netherlands, Norwegian, Canadian and New Zealand Red Cross Societies," said the statement, a copy of which was sent to the Jordan Times. "The ICRC is profoundly shocked and grieved by this tragedy and vigorously condemns this attack and the violation of the Red Cross emblem."

A number of international aid organisations are active in Chechnya, where 21 months of fighting killed tens of thousands of people and left many more homeless.

There has been a spate of kidnappings and ransom demands, most of them lasting only a few days, and at least two aid workers have been killed — one American and one Finnish. But it was the first attack on foreign workers on this scale.

ITAR-TASS news agency quoted Movladi Udugov, first deputy head of the separatist government of Chechnya as saying the incident "Would be a terrible link in a chain of provocations against the fragile peace process in Chechnya."

Both Moscow and Chechnya's separatist leaders are trying to keep

## Iran says Saudis agree on more pilgrims

DUBAI (R) — An Iranian official said Saudi Arabia would allow more Iranian pilgrims to perform the annual pilgrimage to Mecca.

On Monday night Iranian television quoted Iran's pilgrimage (Haj) organiser Hojatoleslam Mohammad Reysabadi as saying Saudi Arabia had agreed to accept 100,000 Iranian pilgrims at the next Haj in March 1997, up from the current 60,000. The number would rise to 150,000 in 1998, he said.

There was no immediate Saudi confirmation of the report.

The television, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation, said Mr. Reysabadi was speaking after returning on Monday from Saudi Arabia.

The number of pilgrims performing the Haj to Mecca and Medina every year is governed by quotas agreed in 1988 by the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) which sets them in relation to the country's population.

Saudi Arabia says the aim of the quota system is to ease congestion during the Haj which often attracts more than two million Muslims.

Iran has for years objected to the quota system by the Jeddah-based OIC.

## Israeli defence minister postpones visit to Egypt

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai has postponed a planned visit to Egypt this week for "technical reasons," the Defence Ministry said Tuesday.

"Yitzhak Mordechai had been invited to visit Egypt this week by President Hosni Mubarak but the trip has been postponed for technical reasons," a ministry spokesman said.

He said the visit, originally scheduled for Wednesday, "will certainly take place soon, possibly as early as next week," but would provide no further details or say whether Egypt or Israel requested the postponement.

Egypt has been increasingly outspoken in its criticism of Israel over the deadlock which has gripped the Israeli-Palestinian peace negotiations since right-wing leader Benjamin Netanyahu became prime minister.

News that Mr. Mordechai's Cairo visit had been put off followed a late night telephone conversation between Mr. Netanyahu and Mr. Mubarak.

The Egyptian leader stressed "that the implementation of accords signed between the Israeli government and the Palestinian National Authority is vital to control the situation," the Egyptian news agency MENA reported.

Mr. Mubarak had said earlier Monday that the stalemate in the Middle East peace process was creating fear in the region and that any changes to the Israeli-Palestinian accords would be dangerous.

"Israel must prove its flexibility," he said, stressing that this was not only in the interests of the Palestinians "but to defend stability and peace in the region because peace is in everyone's interest — Egypt, Jordan, Palestine, Israel, Syria and all the countries of the region."

## Arab Journalists Union criticises Jordanian ban

CAIRO (Agencies) — The Arab Journalists' Union protested Tuesday at what it said was Jordan's refusal to allow entry to two Lebanese journalists and a foreign distribution ban on a Jordanian newspaper, saying the moves were an attack on democracy.

"Jordanian authorities this week banned Talal Salzman and Rajeh Khouri, editors-in-chief of the daily newspapers Al Safir and Al Nahar respectively, from entering Jordan even though they had entry visas," the union said.

The two, who had been invited to take part in a seminar on investigative reporting in Jordan, returned to Beirut after spending the night at Amman airport, it added without giving further information.

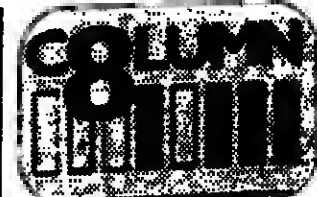
However, a senior security official in Amman said the authorities had only banned Mr. Salzman from entering the country and

that the other journalist had decided on his own not to enter Jordan in solidarity with Mr. Salzman.

The decision to refuse entry to Mr. Salzman, the security official told the Jordan Times early this week, was not political but was taken in view of his "persistent writings" that insulted Jordan and the Jordanian leadership.

As such, the security official said, the decision was a sovereign Jordanian decision with no political implications. The official also sent to the Jordan Times clippings of Mr. Salzman's writings and said that the Jordanian government could file lawsuits against the journalist if it chose to do so.

"Jordan would have let Mr. Salzman in had he just opposed this country's policies, on peace with Israel and otherwise, as we have (Continued on page 7)



## Israeli burglars play safe and use condoms

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli police have discovered why burgled luxury homes near Tel Aviv all had greasy doorhandles. Thieves caught recently in a stakeout told investigators they had used lubricated condoms instead of gloves in the burglaries, the Yedioth Ahronoth newspaper said on Tuesday. The crooks said the condoms were easier to put on their hands than gloves and were also finger-print-safe.

## Gold coin fetches record \$875,000

WASHINGTON (AFP) — A 1907 U.S. double eagle was sold by Sotheby's for \$875,000, a record for a gold coin at auction, the auction house said. The coin, a "Saint-Gaudens" ultra high relief double eagle, was purchased Monday at the auction by Dwight Manley, manager of Chicago Bulls basketball star Dennis Rodman. The coin, one of 18 known to exist, had been estimated to sell for \$800,000. The previous record for a gold coin was \$725,000 for the Ephraim Brasher Doubloon, 1787, sold in 1979 at auction for Johns Hopkins University.

## This Santa Claus might try reindeer next time

LANTANA (R) — A group of underprivileged Florida children watched wide-eyed on Sunday when a helicopter crashed in flames as it brought Santa Claus to their holiday party, a local newspaper reported. But all was well on Monday as Santa — played by Charles Dhoogee of West Palm Beach — was recovering at home from minor injuries, thanks to the heroism of chopper pilot Donald Lloyd. Although the boy had been doused with fuel after the helicopter went down, Lloyd reached through the flames and released Dhoogee, his red and white suit on fire, from the wreckage. Even the Christmas party was saved as volunteers gathered the 200 shaken children — many of them crying — and told them that Santa needed to get his burned whiskers trimmed.

## Transvestite thrown in well survives

MANAGUA (R) — Firmans rescued a Nicaraguan transvestite who spent eight days trapped in an abandoned well where he had been thrown by two men who raped and then tried to strangle him, a police spokesman said on Monday. Jose Ramon Martinez Arteaga, 22, known as "Shakira," was picked up by two men at a dance club in the Ciudad Sandino neighbourhood of Managua on Dec. 7. Captain Justo Zamora told Reuters. "With lies they led me to a field where they violently assaulted me, one after the other, and when they had satisfied their animal desires they tied a cord around my neck as if to strangle me," Martinez told the local newspaper La Prensa. He fractured his leg in the fall into the well, making it impossible for him to climb out, said Martinez, who was reportedly found in women's clothes. "I slept next to a plastic pipe, the ants and lizards were my friends, but at times they got inside my clothes," he said.

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